2

麻々原絵里依

極楽カフェ

CHARA COMICS

Chara COMICS

極楽カフェ

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雑誌 52812—36

徳間書店

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For some reason, everyone who attempts to woo cafe waiter Yuuto is a man. One day, a hotshot director from Hollywood, Jack, comes to Japan. Jack, whom Yuuto admires, is actually the cafe owner's son, and the two of them have been isolated from each other for 6 years. Yuuto goes to see Jack in an effort to convince his two beloved friends to make up. But he ends up being overpowered and pushed down by Jack and...!?

CHARA COMICS

2

麻々原絵里依

徳間書店

ELLIE Mamahara Presents Gokuraku Cafe Volume 2

CONTENTS

Order 5 • pg007
Order 6 • pg043
Order 7 • pg075
Order 8 • pg107
Order 9 • pg141

End-of-volume Extra 4 • 175

Afterword and extra chapter - Let's Meet Again in Rainbow Forest • 176

ELLIE
極楽カフェ
PRESENTS
order: 5
PIZZA JACKY
100% COTTON

SORRY FOR THE WAIT! HERE'S DINNER.
Kerorone
Yay~!♡
YUUTO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THESE PEOPLE, YOU KNOW
WOOF WOOF!!
YEAH SORRY YOU HAD TO DO ALL THIS FOR US
WOOF!
SORRY 'BOUT THIS YUUTO-KUN
Yay! Goood!
No worries at all! Here's your onigiri and there's your Gyuutou
HEY, C'MON, PROFESSOR!

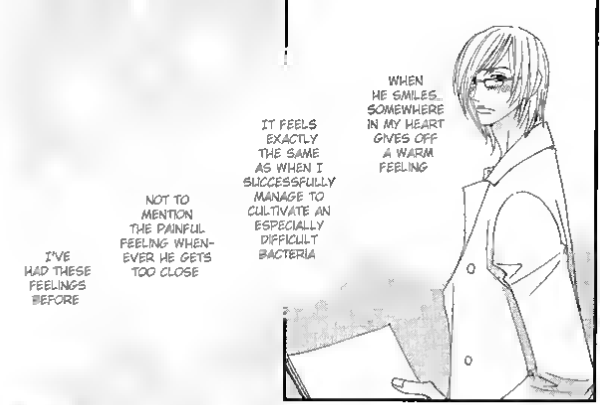
YOU WORKED HARD TODAY YOU CAN GO NOW.
ALL RIGHT!
THE TEACHING MATERIALS ARE ALL ON THE TABLE IF THERE'S ANY-THING ELSE YOU NEED I'LL GET THEM READY TOMORROW.
OH, AND HERE'S YOUR PRINT-OUT AS WELL.
IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I'LL CALL IT A DAY.
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
YUUTO-KUN!
WAIT UP! LET'S GO HOME TO-GETHER.
YAZAWA-SAN!

SO, YOU USED TO EVERYTHING YET?
YUP! EVERYONE'S SO NICE AND ALL. IT'S BEEN REAL INTERESTING
IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS, I PROBABLY WON'T EVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO SET FOOT IN A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LAB
grin
DON'T SAY THAT—
blush
OH YEAH, YOU WANT TO GO THERE?
SURE!
EH?
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN A SINGLE RELATIVE?
Coffee & Sweets

YOU REALLY MUST BE PUSHING YOURSELF HARD.
Made me cry, too!
sniff
AW, DON'T DO THAT MANAMI-SAN
NO, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
OMG I'M SO SORRY! THAT WAS PRETTY IN-SENSITIVE OF ME
WHOA!
DON'T—— YAZAWA-SAN!
sob
YOU
YOU'RE SO BRAVE
Sigh
Up!
EH, REALLY, MASTER? ♡
WHATEVER CAN IT BE???
TORN
WELL, THEN, YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO GET THIS FAR, HOW ABOUT I REWARD YOU FOR IT?

I FIGURED I'D BETTER GIVE YOU SOMETHING ELSE BEFORE YOU ASK FOR THAT RIRIKA FIGURE I HAVE OVER THERE ♡
OH WOW! ISN'T THE LIMITED FIGURE MADE ESPECIALLY TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST FILM'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY? I HEARD THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 200 OF THEM MADE SO THEY'RE LIKE SUPER RARE! ♡♡♡
HAHAHA!
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?! I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, I'M 18!!
SHOCK
Hey, don't get your fingerprints all over it!
You're so lucky ~~ o
THOSE TWO GET ALONG VERY WELL, DON'T THEY?
SHOCK
Really doesn't seem as though they've just met.
J-JEALOUS?
M-ME?
GIGGLE
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
WHAT'S THIS SAD FEELING I'M GETTING?
...at a time like this too...

Yeah, those are the pros and cons when it comes to the fans
Oh and during the last part of the second movie
I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT WHENEVER THEY GET INTO THE SUBJECT OF JACKY, I FEEL LIKE I'M TOTALLY LOST
AM I JEALOUS OF THE MASTER?
CAN'T BE BUT THEN...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
Hey there!
flop
flop



AND THAT WAS...
WHEN I FIRST MET RYOUKO
Yuuto-kun, I AWESOME! AWESOME! AWESOME!

HUH?
HOW COME?
YUUTO
I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR YOU NOT TO HANG AROUND THAT YAZAWA-SAN TOO MUCH
ANYWAY, I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO GO ANYWHERE WITH HIM WHEN YOU'RE ALONE
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE THERE TO WATCH YOUR BACK,
HE'S A GREAT GUY! I MEAN HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME THIS JOB (EVEN IF IT DOESN'T PAY MUCH) AND HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME
"Am it could be the other way round...
whip
WHAT? SO YOU'RE STILL GONNA FOLLOW ME AROUND?
WHATEVER! JUST DO AS I SAY

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
He didn't have to overreact

WOW. IT'S ALREADY SO LATE.
I'D BETTER GO
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! THAT'S TOO MUCH OF YOU!
...AND TURNS OUT IT WAS ONLY A MEER SEEDLING STILL!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
THANK YOU THAT WAS DELICIOUS!

IF SO, WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY IF I GET A LIFT FROM YOU TO THE STATION? IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A LADY LIKE ME TO BE ALL ALONE AT THIS TIME ♡
OH?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'LL BE ANYMORE CUSTOMERS WALKING IN AT THIS TIME
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CLOSE UP SHOP AS WELL
STOCK
GLARE
hissss
GLAS
IT'S FINE WITH ME? WHAT ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU?
IS THAT SO? WELL, SORRY TO HAVE TO TROUBLE YOU
Y-YEAH, SO WE'LL JUST STAY HERE AND WATCH THE PLACE FOR YOU
AH
WE WANT TO KICK BACK AND DRINK A LITTLE MORE
GLAS

EH? YOU FEEL THAT WAY TOO?
MANAMI-SAN SURE IS A BIG FAN OF MASTER'S, HUH?
WELL, SHE'S ALWAYS HAD A FETISH FOR OLDER GUYS
AND THE MASTER REALLY ISN'T RAD AT ALL, IF I HAVE TO SAY SO MYSELF
"THAT WAY"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THAT WAY"?
WELL, I DO LIKE THE GUY AND ALL...
But if you're talking about fetish, it's not like that at all!
scrub
scrub
AH--
L-LET ME--!
WELL, SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO, LET'S CLEAN UP. SHALL WE?
SILAS
rattle
I'll leave things to you two!
SOON!

blush
SHAPE
scrub
05
KERR-
RASH!
O-OH NO...
AH!
bam
SHAPE
ACK!!
EH? AH—!!
SHOCK!
HERE...
SHAPE

I knew it
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL
OW—!
HERE LEMME TAKE A LOOK
SUCK
!
LOOKS LIKE THE CUT ISN'T TOO DEEP BUT WE SHOULD PUT A BANDAGE ON IT
!!!!!!
LOP
HM?
shake
shake

FLUSHED
YUUTO KUN

OH SHIT!
VOOM

SHOCK
I THINK I LOVE YOU!!!
GRAB

"ANYWAY, I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO GO ANY-WHERE WITH HIM WHEN YOU'RE ALONE "
"I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR YOU NOT TO HANG AROUND THAT YAZAWA-SAN TOO MUCH "
I'M SO SORRY, SOUHEI, I DIDN'T TAKE YOUR ADVICE

I KNOW I'VE JUST BROKEN UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND AND THAT WE'RE BOTH GUYS...
ANYONE WOULD'VE THINK ME AS STRANGE BUT...
I CAN'T HOLD MY FEELINGS BACK ANY LONGER!
WHEN RYOUKO LEFT ME FOR ANOTHER THAT DAY, I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS OVER...BUT THEN CAME YOU
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO BOUNCE BACK THE WAY I DID
SO. I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME, ALWAYS

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE THIS STRAIGHT-LACED TYPE
WHO KNEW YOU COULD CRACK JOKES LIKE THIS?
blink
W- WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS HAS GOT TO BE SOME JOKE, RIGHT?
RUSH
BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T DO IT
SILAS
I MEAN THERE WERE RELATIVELY MANY OTHER GUYS WHO CAME ON TO ME IN THE PAST SO I'M USED TO BEING TEASED LIKE THIS
IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU
DO YOU LIKE THE MASTER BETTER?
SILAS
WELL WE'D BETTER HURRY UP AND PACK UP OR THE MASTER'LL DRILL US WHEN HE GETS BACK

SURPRISED
EH?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING SO HAPPY TALKING TO HIM, THAT EVEN YOUR EYES LIGHT UP
AND FORGETTING ABOUT ALL THOSE AT YOUR SIDE LIKE ME
YA——
YAZAWA-SAN!
tremble
tremble
tremble
tremble
UH?
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
IT'S JUST JACKY WE USUALLY TALK ABOUT
FIRST RYOUKO AND NOW YOU
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
not listening

WHOAAA
WH——
SILAS
I'LL KILL YOU FIRST THEN I'LL KILL MYSELF!
WOOOH.
SILAS
LET'S DIE TOGETHER!
BANG
AH!
ARGH!
ARRR-RGH!
LAS
thoss
BANG
SILAS
YOU IDIOT! WAKE U..
..UP??

BANG
ROLL ROLL ROLL
CRASH!
BOOM!
WHOA!
AAH
AH
AH
OWWIE ~~~
WHAT HIT ME?
?!

WHAT'S THIS? WOW!! THIS IS SO, COOL!
THESE GUYS ARE ALL FROM JACKY'S MOVIES!
THIS ONE, AND THAT ONE TOO!
AM I DREAMING? WHY ARE THEY...?
SILAS
...!
...THIS...!

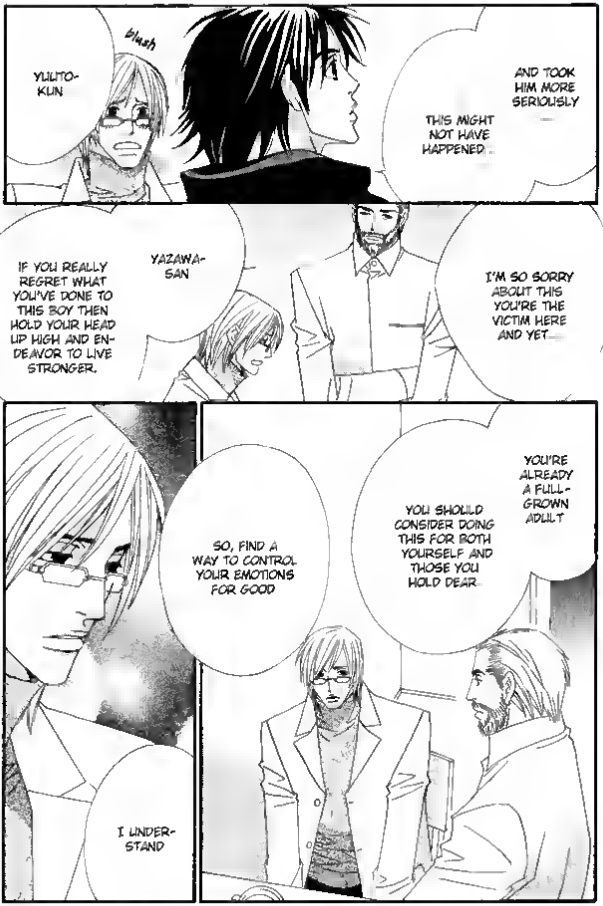
HUH?
RICHARD Y. SWALLOW IS MASTER ALL ALONG— SO, HE'S THE DIRECTOR OF ALL THE MOVIES!
OH... I GET IT NOW...
MAY I KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'RE DOING DOWN HERE?
SILPC
MASTER?!
THAT'S...

AH! NO, YOU IDIO——!
SHOCK
SILAS
RAHH H!
GRAB
ナレ

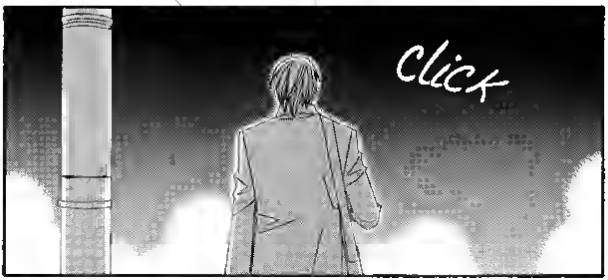
SWINGING SUCH A SHARP WEAPON AROUND IS WRONG
WHO WAS JUN JUST NOW?

I'M REALLY SORRY

I'M...PRETTY USELESS, AREN'T I? I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY. ONCE I PUT MY ATTENTION ON ONE THING, THAT'D BE THE ONLY THING I COULD CONCENTRATE ON
I'M USUALLY IN MY OWN WORLD BUT SOMETIMES WHEN I GET TOO EMOTIONAL, EVERYTHING AROUND ME JUST TURNS RED I'M NOT SURE I CAN EXPLAIN IT EITHER.
BACK WHEN I WAS STUDYING FOR EXAMINATIONS, I'D GET SO INTO MY STUDIES THAT MY HEALTH SUFFERED.
BUT UPON ENTERING UNIVERSITY, I SEEMED TO HAVE CALMED DOWN QUITE A BIT... SO SOMETIMES I MAY FORGET...
WELL, IT'S FINE SINCE NOBODY GOT HURT.
BUT WHAT YOU DID COULD WARRANT AN ARREST
MASTER I'M AT FAULT, TOO
IF ONLY I HADN'T TAKEN HIS CONFESSION AS A JOKE...
SIL!


blush
YUUTO-KUN
AND TOOK HIM MORE SERIOUSLY
THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED
YAZAWA-SAN
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS YOU'RE THE VICTIM HERE AND YET
IF YOU REALLY REGRET WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THIS BOY THEN HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH AND ENDEAVOR TO LIVE STRONGER.
YOU'RE ALREADY A FULL-GROWN ADULT
YOU SHOULD CONSIDER DOING THIS FOR BOTH YOURSELF AND THOSE YOU HOLD DEAR
SO, FIND A WAY TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS FOR GOOD
I UNDERSTAND

YAZAWA-SAN...
I'M SORRY IF THIS IS TOO SUDDEN... BUT I THINK I'M GONNA QUIT THE JOB
PLEASE TELL EVERYONE AT THE LAB "THANK YOU" FOR ME AND THAT I'VE FOUND ANOTHER JOB
SURE, I'LL DO THAT


Click

...SIGH
dead tired
SILAS

AND WHILE I DO FEEL BAD BAILING OUT HALFWAY... ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PEOPLE AT THE LAB WERE SO NICE
THE THING ABOUT HAVING FOUND A NEW JOB ISN'T EXACTLY A LIE
BUT ISN'T IT A WASTE TO JUST LET GO OF THE JOB LIKE THAT? AND YOU EVEN LIED ABOUT HAVING FOUND A NEW ONE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
SORRY FOR ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST NOW, MASTER
WELL, WITH WHAT HAPPENED TODAY I'D JUST MAKE LIFE HARD FOR BOTH OF US IF I CONTINUE WORKING THERE.
?
Eheheh
MASTER ~~~ CAN I BE YOUR STUDENT ♡???
Totally forgot about that

PLEASE! Please take me under your wing and let me learn from you!
slap
WHAT WAS THAT?!

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ONCE BEFORE?
I SAW ONE OF JACKY'S FILMS WHEN I WAS A KID AND HAD WANTED TO MAKE ONE OF MY OWN SOME DAY

I WAS SO SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT YOU AND MR. SWALLOW ARE ONE AND THE SAME
I'D SAY THAT THIS IS FATE!♡
What are you...?

I WAS PRETTY LISTLESS FOR A WHILE UNTIL I SNAPPED AWAKE ONE DAY AND THOUGHT ABOUT THE THINGS I WANT TO FOCUS ON. THAT'S WHEN I RECALLED.
AFTER I'VE GRADUATED, I NEEDED TO LOOK FOR A JOB AND MAKE A LIVING...
BUT THEN MY DAD, THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED ME TO JACKY, PASSED AWAY NOT LONG AFTER THAT AND THEN MY MOM AS WELL...
...SO I KINDA FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT AMBITION I HAD...
BUT THEN I HAD NO IDEA AS TO WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN REALIZING THAT DREAM OF MINE...
AND THAT'S WHEN I MET YOU!
PLEASE!
MR. DIRECTOR! PLEASE TAKE ME AS YOUR STUDENT AND ALLOW ME TO LEARN FROM YOU!

I'VE ALREADY STOPPED MAKING MOVIES
!!
STUDENT? DIRECTING?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE SAYING
DO YOU KNOW WHY I TOOK ON MY WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME AND CAME OVER HERE TO JAPAN TO STAY?
THAT'S BECAUSE I JUST WANT TO LIVE QUIETLY ON MY OWN...
...FORGETTING ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH FILM...

I JUST WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE

MASTER...
dazed

SOUHEI YOU KNOW I
...I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON.
SOUHEI...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU SEEM TO HAVE SHUT YOURSELF UP IN YOUR SHELL EVER SINCE YOU GOT BACK.
YUP!
OH? WELL, THAT'S GREAT!
BETTER WORK HARD ON IT! IF IT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, YOU'LL ALWAYS GET MY SUPPORT!
YEAH, THANKS

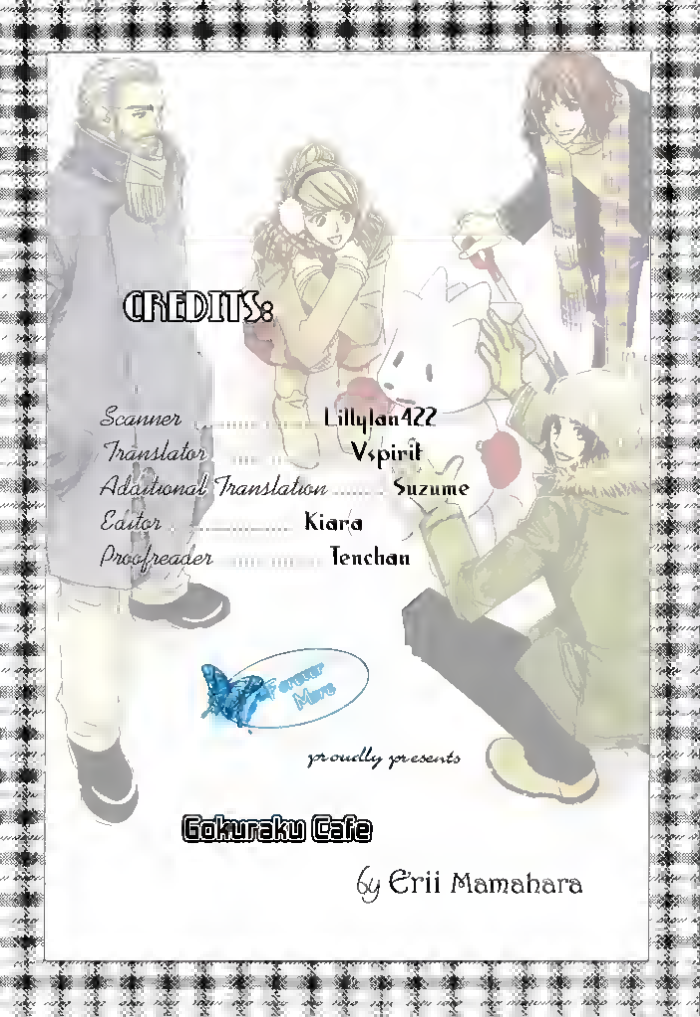
BANG
GOOD AFTER-NOON!!
What's with that luggage?!
JUST MOVED OUT OF SOUHEI'S PLACE!
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT AND I'VE CONCLUDED THAT I'M NOT GONNA GIVE UP ASKING TO BE YOUR STUDENT!
GIVE ME A BREAK

Whadaya mean live-in?!!
You think this is a place for free-loaders?!
FIRST THINGS FIRST I'LL BE YOUR VERY OWN LIVE-IN PUPIL! ♡
SO... PLEASE TAKE ME IN!!
I'LL DO ANYTHING! WASH YOUR PLATES, SHINE YOUR SHOES (?!) YOU NAME IT!
NO. I WON'T!!!
I FIGURED THAT IF I STICK TO YOU THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU MIGHT CAVE IN ONE DAY AND DECIDE TO PASS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE AFTER ALL ♬
WHY NOT JUST GIVE HIM A CHANCE, MASTER?
MANA-MI!
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID IT'S TIME TO HIRE HELP, SINCE THE SHOP HAS GOTTEN MORE AND MORE BUSY LATELY?
IS THAT TRUE, MANAMI-SAN?!

And that's how I became a freeloader at Master's cafe.

He still hasn't accepted me as his student yet... though. (But I'm working on it!)

order: 5 END



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proudly presents

Gokuraku Cafe

by Erii Mamahara

Narita Terminal 1
We're now on location at Narita Airport.
The famous movie director Jackson Hawke has just arrived.
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!
SNAP
Flash
Flash

極楽カフェ
PRESENTS
order: 6

This is Mr Hawke's first time in Japan as he comes to promote his latest film "Danse Macabre"
WOW,
JACKSON HAWKE IS REALLY HERE IN JAPAN!
Mr Hawke will attend the press conference tomorrow at Hotel Grand Central

AS FAR AS DIRECTORS GO, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE NO 1 IN MY HEART!
AH, DON'T WORRY MASTER!
Flair
THE PRESS CONFERENCE SOUNDS EXCITING! ♡ I WANNA GO! ♡♡
Flair
DID I SAY ANYTHING?
IX
Flair

BUT HE'S REALLY SOMETHING ELSE ISN'T HE? HE'S ONLY 30 BUT ALREADY HAS HIS OWN FILM PRODUCTION HOUSE... AND ALL THE FILMS HE'D MADE SO FAR ARE ALL BOX OFFICE HITS!
IN HOLLYWOOD, HE'S THE NO.1 CHOICE WHEN IT COMES TO DIRECTING MOVIES WITH SFX!!
AND DID YOU KNOW? ALMOST HALF OF THE CHARACTERS IN HIS NEWEST FILM ARE ACTUALLY FULL CG!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO LIKE EFFECTS MUCH AT ALL, DO YOU, MASTER?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE IT,
I JUST DON'T ENJOY MOVIES THAT ARE TOO DEPENDENT ON GRAPHICS AND EFFECTS
IX
IX
HM, I THINK SO TOO
THERE ARE CG MOVIES OUT THERE THAT TOOK MILLIONS TO MAKE BUT ENDED UP LOOKING BAD

TO ME... DREAMS ARE ALL A MATTER OF WHAT WE BUILD WITH OUR OWN TWO HANDS
HEH WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT FROM?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR AMBITIONS? HAS YOUR TECHNIQUE IMPROVED ANY?
BUT IT'S THE SAME WHETHER IT'S PUPPETS OR CEL ANIMATION OR CG ISN'T IT?
BREATHING LIFE INTO THE CHARACTERS IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT
I'M WORKING ON IT! I REALLY AM! ♡
THE CAMERA YOU LOANED ME IS STILL IN GREAT WORKING CONDITION, TOO!
YEAH, THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS DOING THE ACTUAL THING BY TRIAL AND ERROR
Moving on, here's the latest on baseball.

OOPS!
KUSHA
OH YEAH, WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE BASEBALL FRONT?
I'VE HEARD THAT EVER SINCE ESAKA-SAN MADE HIS COMEBACK, HIS PLAYING CONDITION HAS BEEN GREAT THIS SEASON
DX
——?!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
WHY'S THERE AN INVITATION FROM JACKSON HAWKE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
J. Hawke Factory

AH!
WAS HE ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS BACK DURING YOUR HOLLYWOOD DAYS?
Damn he's sexy
The New York Times
rustle
rustle
WHOA, SO DOES THIS MEAN HE'S MY SEMPAI OR SOMETHING?
EH?
...YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG
HE WASN'T UNDER ME OR ANYTHING
HE'S MY SON

——?!
IX
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
I MEAN, YOU'VE NEVER SO MUCH AS UTTERED A WORD...
CUT...?
THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE CUT MYSELF OFF FROM EVERYTHING
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ONCE SINCE I CAME TO JAPAN
YOU HAVEN'T? HOW COME? AND WOULDN'T THIS BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'LL SEE HIM IN SIX YEARS?
I'M NOT GOING TO
HUH?

BUT WHY?
I MEAN IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU TWO FATHER AND SON HAVE
THAT'S BECAUSE HE WON'T WANT TO SEE ME
——?!

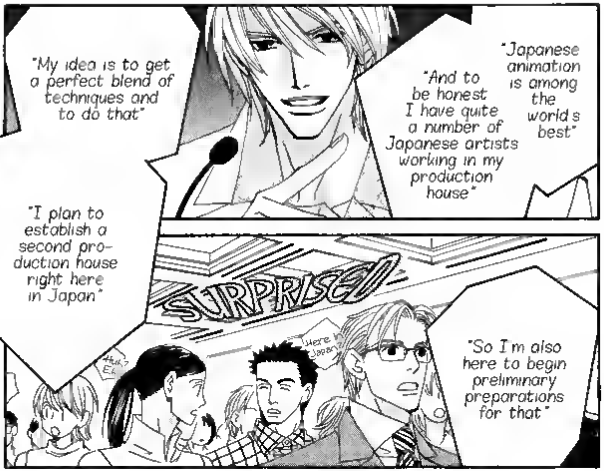
BUT THAT'S

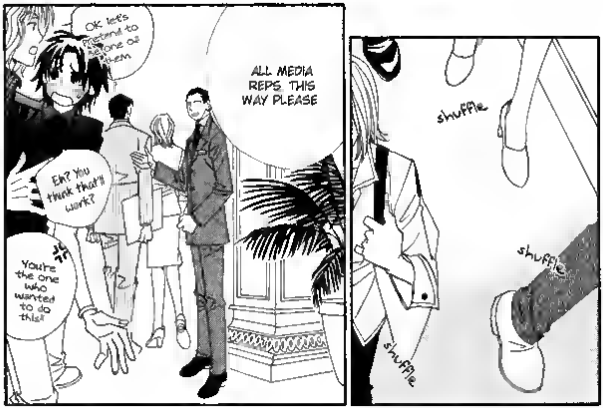
whisper
whisper
AND?
AND THAT'S ALL HE'S WILLING TO SAY. THAT HE'S LOST EVEN HIS LAST HOPE
WELL, MASTER BLAMES HIMSELF FOR HIS WIFE'S DEATH.
AFTER THAT, HE AND HIS SON-THAT'S HAWKE-BEGAN TO GROW APART.

IF ONLY I HAD PAID MORE ATTENTION TOWARDS HER...
THEN MAYBE JUST MAYBE, SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE DIED."
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT NO MATTER THE REASON
IT SHOULD NEVER COME BETWEEN A FATHER AND HIS SON?
smirk
AND THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE UP ON THE FATHER AND ARE NOW GOING FOR THE SON INSTEAD?
HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK THAT THEY MIGHT NOT APPRECIATE YOU BUTTING INTO THEIR BUSINESS?
I mean it!
rustle
WE WON'T KNOW IF WE DON'T TRY!
THERE'S NO HELPING THIS GUY...
Fine, fine. I get it.
AND I KNOW THAT YOUR OTHER REASON FOR DOING THIS IS JUST TO SEE THE GUY.
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO THE GUY....

HERE HE COMES!
IT'S HAWKE!
Sorry to have kept everyone waiting
We shall now begin the press conference which officially opens Danse Macabre to the Japanese public
DANSE MACABRE
IT'S JACKSON HAWKE! IN THE FLESH!
YOU... I knew it!
LOOK, SOUHEI! IT'S REALLY HIM!
WOW
flash
flash

"And due to that—"
"I don't plan to discuss the plot too in depth right here and now"
"What I want the audience to watch is exactly what they'll receive when they watch it"
WHAT I WANT THE AUDIENCE TO WATCH IS
EXACTLY WHAT THEY'LL RECEIVE WHEN THEY WATCH IT.
"In Japan there's another purpose that I came for"
IN JAPAN, THERE'S ANOTHER PURPOSE THAT I CAME FOR.
"My stay here will last for about 3 weeks
to which most of it will be dedicated to promotional works but"


"My idea is to get a perfect blend of techniques and to do that"
"Japanese animation is among the world's best"
"And to be honest I have quite a number of Japanese artists working in my production house"
"I plan to establish a second production house right here in Japan"
SURPRISED
"So I'm also here to begin preliminary preparations for that"


OK, let's pretend to be one of them
ALL MEDIA REPS THIS WAY PLEASE
Eh? You think that'll work?
You're the one who wanted to do this!
shuffle
shuffle
shuffle

DING
WOW...
YEAH, SHOULD BE NOW WHERE'S THAT DUDE?
hum
SO THIS IS THE VIP FLOOR?
Are you sure were on the right floor?
whoosh
BUT——SOUHEI——!
I'LL GO ASK. YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME

SLAM
CRAP!
?
AH!
AREN'T THOSE BODY-GUARDS?
CLICK
——?!
WHOA!
AAAAAA!
!!

SHOCK
I-I'M SORRY!
!!
SHOCK
WHOA! NO WAY!
JACKSON HAWKE??!
IT'S THE REAL THING, TOO!
WOW PRETTY BOLD, AREN'T WE?

I DON'T KNOW A WORD OF ENGLISH!!
GULP HOW AM I GONNA EXPLAIN THINGS TO HIM?
SNAP!
AH!
HUUUUUUUH! MISTER HAWKE! I
YOU'RE NOT FROM THE PRESS, RIGHT?
IS THIS THE WORK OF PR? TALK ABOUT EFFICIENT
GEEZ, DON'T TELL ME THEY KNOW ABOUT MY PREFERENCES EVEN HERE IN JAPAN?
????
????
SO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH?
...
AH, YOU SPEAK JAPANESE!
THAT'S BECAUSE MY MOTHER WAS JAPANESE

WOW
UM. I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE...
BUT I NEEDED TO SPEAK TO YOU...
PLEASE JUST CALL ME JACK WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M YUUTO
TAKANASHI YUUTO
I SEE... YUUTO HUH? SOUNDS CUTE
HUH?
DON'T TELL ME...

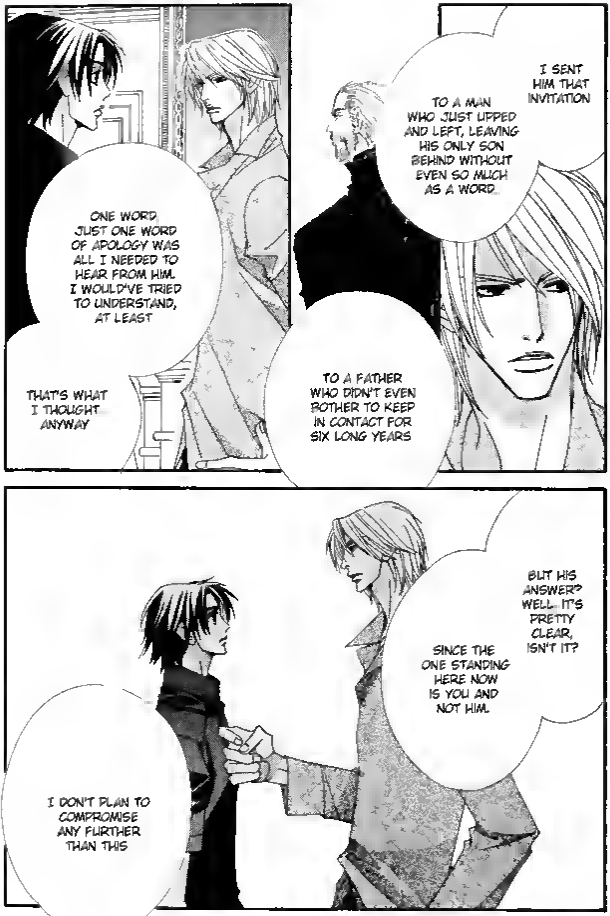
AHHH
NOT AGAIN!!!
NERVOUS?
JUST RELAX. I PROMISE I'LL BE REAL GENTLE.
POOF
AH!
UM—! JACK—!
WAIT, PLE—!
WHOA! YOU BIG IDIOT! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT!!!
I SAID
?
THAT'S TOO FAST FOR ME TO CATCH. CARE TO GO SLOWER?

I'M... MASTER'S
-AH!
MASTER...? WHO'S THAT?
rustle
GAAA- AAAH!
HM?
WHAT'S THIS?
OH, THAT'S
!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?

GRA
OW!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU REALLY?
WAS IT RICHARD WHO TOLD YOU TO COME?!
DAMN THAT OLD MAN!
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
Rustle
WHO DOES HE THINK I AM?!
"WHAT"? HOW RUDE!
I'M JUST AN EMPLOYEE AT MASTER'S PLACE!
HE DIDN'T TELL ME TO DO NOTHING! I CAME HERE OUT OF MY OWN ACCORD!
MASTER ...? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY FATHER?
AND WHY WOULD YOU, A MERE HIRED HELP, COME ALL THIS WAY...?

AND... UH...
MASTER... HE THINKS THAT YOU'RE STILL MAD AT HIM... THAT'S WHY HE SAID HE WON'T MEET YOU
THAT INVITATION JUST NOW... IT WAS ADDRESSED TO HIM, RIGHT?
Humph
YEAH... HE SHOULDN'T HAVE THE CHEEK TO COME FACE ME...
IT'S TRUE
SO... IT'S TRUE THEN?
AND THE THING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S PASSING BEING HIS FAULT... AS WELL?
THAT CAN'T BE!

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU REALLY CAME FOR?
DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR HIM?
THERE MUST'VE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING! MASTER ISN'T THE TYPE WHO WOULD—
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
I JUST WANT YOU TWO TO MEET UP AND TALK THINGS OVER.
THERE MUST'VE BEEN A REASON HOW THINGS GOT TO BE THIS WAY YOU MUST'VE BEEN WONDERING THAT YOURSELF AND THAT'S WHY YOU SENT MASTER THAT INVITATION RIGHT?
.....
...THAT'S RIGHT.


I SENT HIM THAT INVITATION
TO A MAN WHO JUST UPPED AND LEFT, LEAVING HIS ONLY SON BEHIND WITHOUT EVEN SO MUCH AS A WORD.
TO A FATHER WHO DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO KEEP IN CONTACT FOR SIX LONG YEARS
ONE WORD. JUST ONE WORD OF APOLOGY WAS ALL I NEEDED TO HEAR FROM HIM. I WOULD'VE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND, AT LEAST
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT ANYWAY
BUT HIS ANSWER? WELL, IT'S PRETTY CLEAR, ISN'T IT?
SINCE THE ONE STANDING HERE NOW IS YOU AND NOT HIM.
I DON'T PLAN TO COMPROMISE ANY FURTHER THAN THIS

knock
knock
JACK, ARE YOU READY? THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU FOR THE INTERVIEW
JACK!
OK. NORMAN I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
SO HERE'S A FRIENDLY WORD OF ADVICE
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF NOT HAVING MUCH TO DO WITH THAT MAN
REASON ABIDE, I'M GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU

THAT MAN IS SELFISH AND HE'S UN-CARING
AS LONG AS IT'S WORK HE'D BE SO CAUGHT UP BY IT, TO A POINT WHERE HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SPARE HIS WIFE A GLANCE
AN ASSHOLE, THAT'S ALL HE IS.

HEY, THERE
CRINK
!
YUUTO HOW'S SOUHEI?
MANAMI-SAN. WELCOME
YOU CAN STOP LYING NOW
ERR YUUTO-KUN
AH, HIS FEVER'S GONE DOWN ALREADY SO HE SHOULD BE FINE

I'M SO SORRY, YUUTO-KUN! I SAW THE TWO OF YOU ON THE NEWS.
I didn't know what you're up to so I let it slip...
THE TWO OF YOU WENT TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DIDN'T YOU?
!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS?
STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S INVITATION AND TELLING LIES...
IF I TOLD YOU, WOULD YOU HAVE LET ME GO?

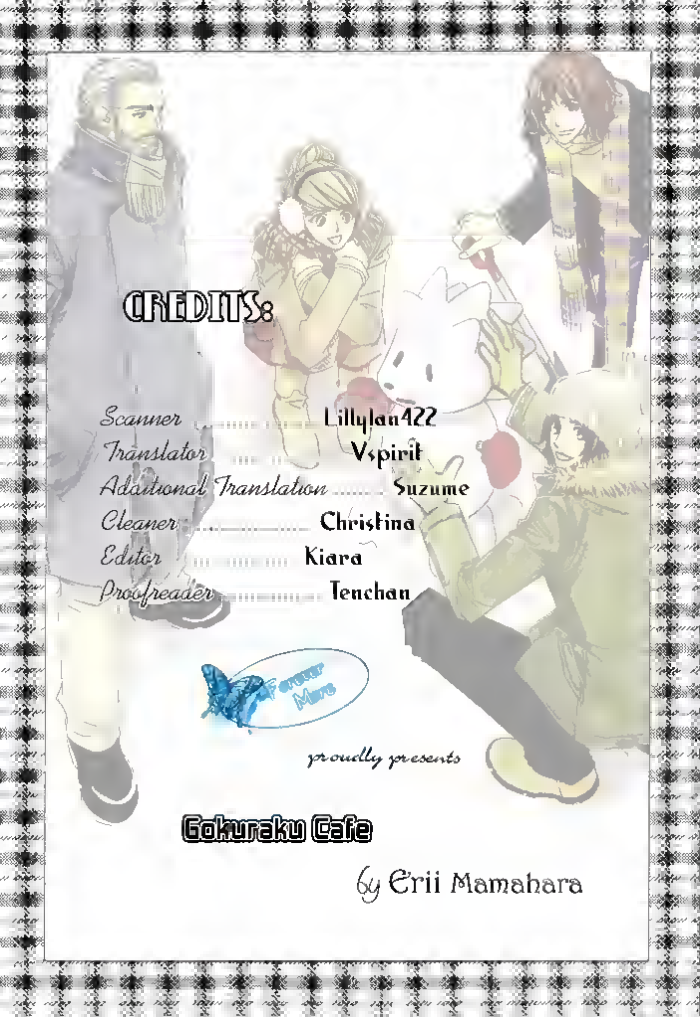
——!
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE, WOULD YOU?!
LET HIM BE.
YUUTO-KUN!
SLAM
stomp
stomp
stomp

rustle
SLAM
"-AS LONG AS IT'S WORK HE'D BE SO CAUGHT UP BY IT TO A POINT WHERE HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SPARE HIS WIFE A GLANCE."
"AN ASSHOLE THAT'S ALL HE IS."
"BUT-"
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?

I CAN'T BELIEVE...
...THAT MASTER WAS THAT KIND OF MAN.

MAN, THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP RECONCILE THOSE TWO WHEN I CAN'T EVEN PULL MYSELF BACK TOGETHER...?

order: 6 END



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Sweet Manga

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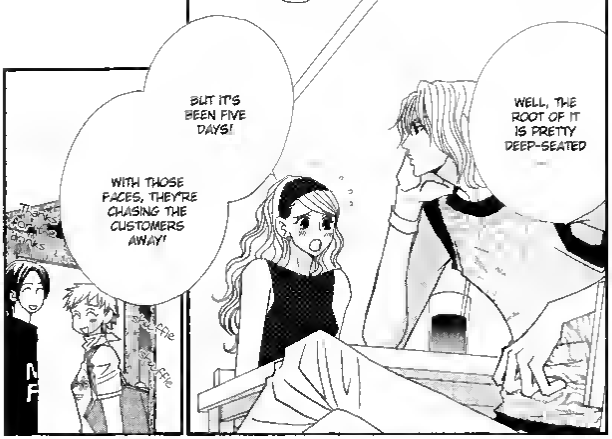
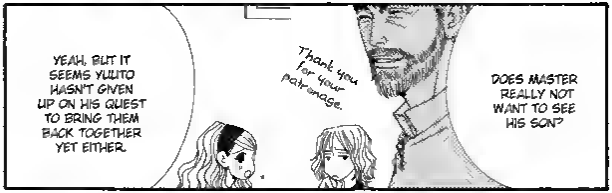
Gokuraku Cafe

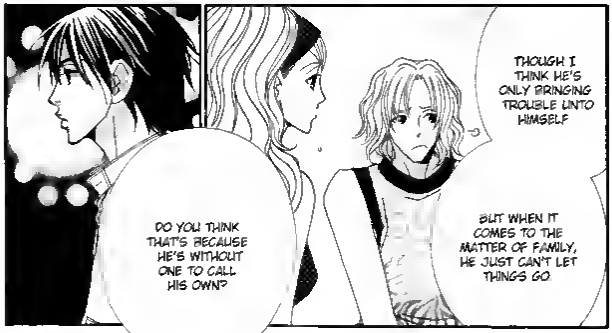
by Erii Mamahara

極楽カフェ
PRESENTS
order. 7

still pissed
sig——h
SAY, SOUHEI-KUN
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THEY'LL KEEP THAT UP?
I'M GETTING REALLY AFRAID...
depressed


WELL, THE ROOT OF IT IS PRETTY DEEP-SEATED
BUT IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS!
WITH THOSE FACES, THEY'RE CHASING THE CUSTOMERS AWAY!


DOES MASTER REALLY NOT WANT TO SEE HIS SON?
Thank you for your patronage.
YEAH, BUT IT SEEMS YUUTO HASN'T GIVEN UP ON HIS QUEST TO BRING THEM BACK TOGETHER YET EITHER.


THOUGH I THINK HE'S ONLY BRINGING TROUBLE UNTO HIMSELF
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE MATTER OF FAMILY, HE JUST CAN'T LET THINGS GO
DO YOU THINK THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S WITHOUT ONE TO CALL HIS OWN?

MASTER, WE'LL BE GOING NOW
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
THANKS, THE COFFEE'S WONDERFUL!
OH, YES, SOLIHE!
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT MENTIONING THIS EARLIER BUT THE SHOP'S CLOSED TOMORROW
BYE YUUTO! WE'LL COME BACK TOMORROW
radiant smile
SORRY BUT I'VE GOT SOME PERSONAL ERRANDS TO RUN
HUH?
EH?

CLOSED
rattle
I WOULDN'T KNOW. I ONLY KNEW THE SAME TIME YOU DID
shake
SO WHAT'S THIS 'PRIVATE ERRAND' ALL ABOUT?
IT'S FINE
I'LL FEEL WORSE IF I JUST LEAVE NOW
YUUTO, YOU WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE? IT'S BEEN A WHILE
EH?
AND WELL, YOU KNOW, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SILENT WAR NOW
SO IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN ASK HIM
YOU SURE?
YEAH, THANKS
I MEAN... THE WAY THINGS ARE BETWEEN YOU AND MASTER NOW... AREN'T THEY WEARING YOU THIN?

Well then, good night!
BRAKE
Uh
.....
BACK TO WORK, BACK TO WORK.
sigh
!
step
OH? THE SHOP'S ALREADY CLOSED?
click

Grab
OOF!
YO!
Long time no see!
ESAKA-SAN?
IT'S BEEN 3 MONTHS.
WOW, IT'S REALLY BEEN SOME TIME! ALMOST A YEAR, IN FACT.
...?

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY
AND WITH YOUR COMEBACK A MAJOR SUCCESS AND ALL I'M HAPPY FOR YOU
LIKE HELL I'LL FORGET YOU
IT WAS A DECISION THAT I MADE
THAT I WON'T SEE YOU UNTIL I'VE TOTALLY HEALED AND FIT THE WAY I WAS BEFORE
'COZ SEEING YOU WILL MAKE ME WANT TO MISBEHAVE
blush
ESAKA-SAN...
You haven't changed a bit
EH?
YUUTO? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM A BIT DOWN
WELL BEFORE YOU WOULD'VE GIVEN ME A SOCK IN THE FACE FOR WHAT I DID JUST NOW

I WANTED TO SAY HI TO MASTER AS WELL
BUT I GUESS HE ALREADY WENT TO SLEEP?
AH...
YEAH, I GUESS...
WELL, SHALL WE GO FOR A DRIVE INSTEAD?
EH?

...I SEE, SO THAT'S WH..T HAPPENED...

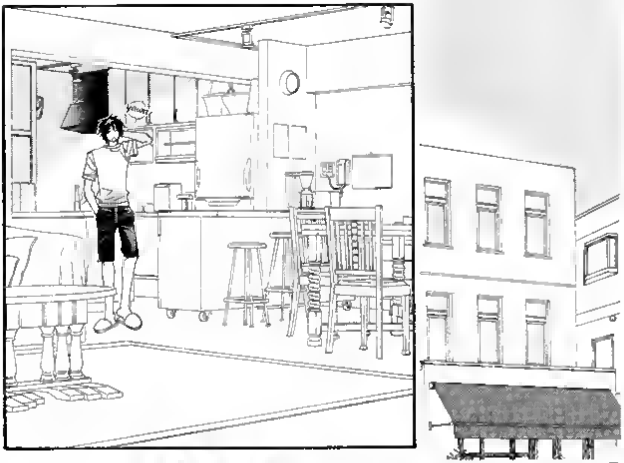
BOTH FATHER AND SON DON'T WANT TO SPEAK WITH ONE ANOTHER, HUH?
YEAH
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT MASTER HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS WIFE'S DEATH SO I CHECKED UP ON OLD ARTICLES AND SUCH BUT...
ALL I FOUND OUT WAS THAT SHE DIED OF CANCER
I'M VERY SURE THERE HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING SOME-WHERE... AND THEY'D REALIZE IT TOO, IF THEY TALKED IT OUT

AND IT'S 'COS YOU TRIED TO GIVE THEM THAT THAT YOU GOT BURNED, WASN'T IT?
IF ONLY THEY'D GIVE EACH OTHER A CHANCE
Y... YEAH...
WELL, I DO SEE WHERE BOTH YOU AND THEM ARE COMING FROM...
YUUTO DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE PERSON HE CAN CALL FAMILY IN THIS WORLD
BUT STILL, THAT'S OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEM.
SO I KNOW HOW HE MUST FEEL WHEN SOMEONE COULD BUT JUST DOESN'T WANT TO.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE WANTS TO BE WITH THEM, HE COULDN'T

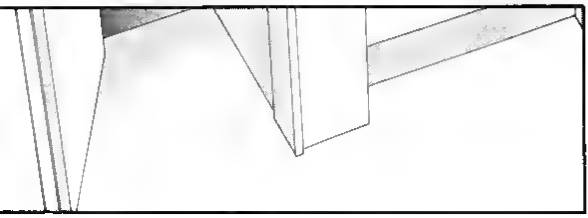
YOU KNOW, IN THIS WORLD THERE'RE MANY DIFFERENT FAMILIES WITH DIFFERENT PROBLEMS.
THERE ARE MANY WHICH ARE SEPARATED AND DON'T GET TO SEE EACH OTHER THEIR ENTIRE LIFETIME.
I KNOW THAT BUT...
click
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY FOR THOSE TWO... YOU KNOW?
IF THEY'D ONLY MEET EACH OTHER ONCE
WHO KNOWS, SOMETHING GOOD MIGHT COME OUT OF IT.
THEY'RE FATHER AND SON AFTER ALL.
...I'M SORRY.
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU SO I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE BURDENED YOU WITH THIS...

AW, C'MON, DON'T SAY THAT
OF COURSE IT CONCERNS ME TOO IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU AND MASTER, I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO THE FIELD LIKE I DID
THAT'S SOMETHING I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING AT ALL I CAN DO TO HELP, I WON'T HESITATE TO DO IT
chu ♥
YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD KID
Just the way I like
THANK YOU

WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S BACK TO HIS OLD SELF.
ARGHHH!!
PUNCH
!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO AT ALL, JUST LET ME KNOW
SO CHEER UP, K?
.....
PAK
PAK



yawn
MASTER'S GONE OUT ALREADY, HUH?



flip
SOMEHOW YESTERDAY FEELS LIKE I WAS BEING PAMPERED
HOW EMBARRASSING
slams shut
Lonesome Gacky #1
first episode
DON'T SEEM TO HAVE SEEN THIS PART BEFORE
WAS IT DELIBERATELY LEFT OUT OR SOMETHING?
!!!
HM?

THIS IS
flip

!
DING
DONG

Hi who?
Y...YES, I AM?
ARE YOU TAKANASHI YUUTO-SAN?
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE SUDDENNESS, BUT I'M HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR JACKSON HAWKE
VK's Factory JAPAN
Management Team
Secretary
Kitashirakawa Misono

HEY THERE!
H-HAWKE-SAN?
SLAM
IT'S JACK
I WANTED TO COME SOONER BUT I WAS TIED UP, YOU SEE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M HERE TO SEE YOU
UM, ARE YOU HERE TO SEE MASTER?
AS I'VE FEARED
EVER SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET, I'VE REALLY TAKEN A SHINE TO YOU
SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO SEE ME FOR?

Whoa, would you look at that!
Sweet wheels.
I'M GOING TO GO GET SOME MUCH-NEEDED EXPOSURE AND I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME FOR THE DAY ♡
EXPOSURE?
YEP. TO TOKYO CITY LIFE, THAT IS
TODAY'S A HARD-EARNED OFF DAY FOR ME IT'D BE A WASTE IF I WERE TO SPEND IT WITH MY STAFF. DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT—
JUST CONSIDER IT AS KINDNESS ON YOUR PART I DON'T THINK YOU'D LOSE ANY-THING BY IT. NO?
—
...DOES THIS MEAN HE'D RECONSIDER ABOUT THAT OTHER THING?
WELL, THEN IT'S DECIDED

click
Does Hiro like him at all? I wonder what he thinks?
Hiro wouldn't know
Ouch! Hot! ☆
WOW! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?
Wanna get away from him?

stagger
Having fun?
THAT WAS ONE CRAZY RIDE!
Was a great experience, eh!
Limp

HAAALP!
HAHA!
HAHAHA!

S'BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN TO AMUSEMENT PARKS
YEAH, ME TOO
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO PLACES LIKE THIS SINCE MY DAD LAST BROUGHT ME WHEN I WAS A KID.
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT DAD TO ME
ISN'T IT UNFAIR HOW A GREAT FATHER LIKE YOURS HAS TO GO SO EARLY BUT SOMEONE LIKE MY OWN GETS TO LIVE LONGER?
HOW CRUEL GOD IS

I WAS CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF PERSON THE ONE WHO ALWAYS HANGS AROUND MY FATHER IS.
I'M SORRY BUT I RAN A BACKGROUND CHECK ON YOU.
...HUH?
HOW DOES HE...?

HE HASN'T TOTALLY ACCEPTED ME YET. THOUGH
SO, I HEARD YOU'RE LEARNING UNDER HIM?

WHEN I WAS A KID, HUH?
I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN MASTER'S STUDIO
YOUR PARENTS LOOK LIKE THEY REALLY LOVED YOU.
JACK...
THE REASON MASTER CREATED JACKY WAS YOU. WASN'T IT?

IT'S PRETTY IRONIC, THOUGH
AND IT'S SOMETHING HE DID OUT OF LOVE FOR YOU
EVEN NOW, HE STILL...
WITH JACKY'S SUCCESS, FATHER BECAME EXCESSIVELY BUSY.
AS HIS STAFF KEPT ON INCREASING, THE TIME HE HAD TO SPEND WITH HIS FAMILY KEPT GETTING LESSER AND LESSER
EVEN AFTER MOTHER FELL ILL HE KEPT AT IT
rustling
YUUTO, THERE'S JUST ONE MORE PLACE I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO
JACK...

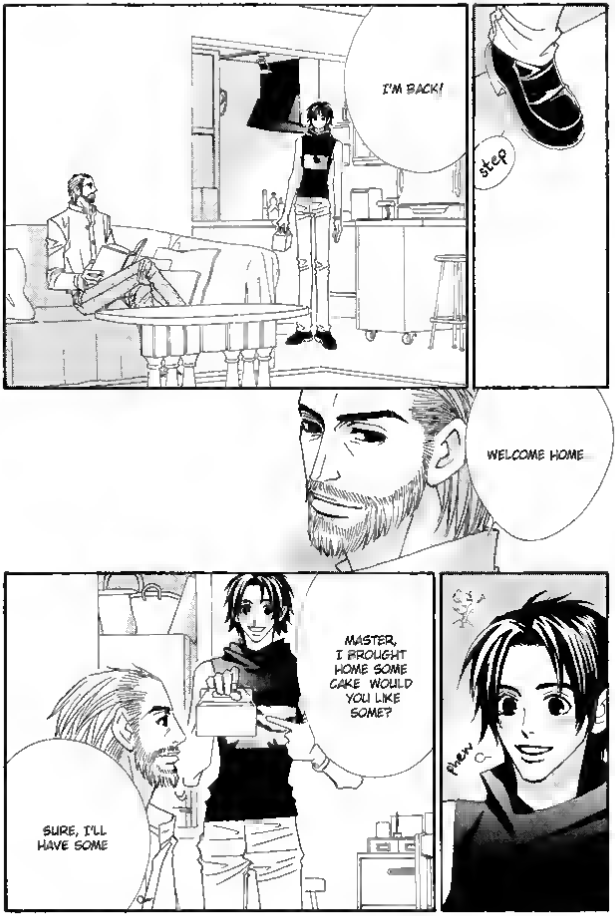
THIS HERE...
IS THE FAMILY PLOT ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE
THIS IS WHERE HER ASHES LIE
TODAY MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING...
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO PAY A VISIT HERE FOR A LONG TIME
YOU LOVED HER A LOT, DIDN'T YOU?
MOST WOULD CALL IT HAVING MOTHER COMPLEX, THOUGH

THAT'S...
RUI FAMILY GRAVE
TAMURA FAMILY GRAVE
*Translator's note to readers: not sure why it's Tamura and not Yoshinaga either.
"MAMA, ARE THESE YOUR FAVORITE FLOWERS?"
"HEHE. THESE ARE THE FLOWERS YOUR PAPA FIRST GAVE TO ME AS A PRESENT."
MY MOTHER LOVED THESE
IS THIS THE ONE? THE FLOWERS LOOK THE SAME

THESE ARE FROM THE FLOWER SHOPPE NEAR OUR PLACE.
I SEE... I GET IT NOW
SO THIS IS THE REASON HE WANTED TO CLOSE UP SHOP TODAY
—!
I SEE I'M SO RELIEVED
SO MASTER STILL VISITS HIS WIFE'S GRAVE ON HER ANNIVERSARY
JACK
STILL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S HIM.

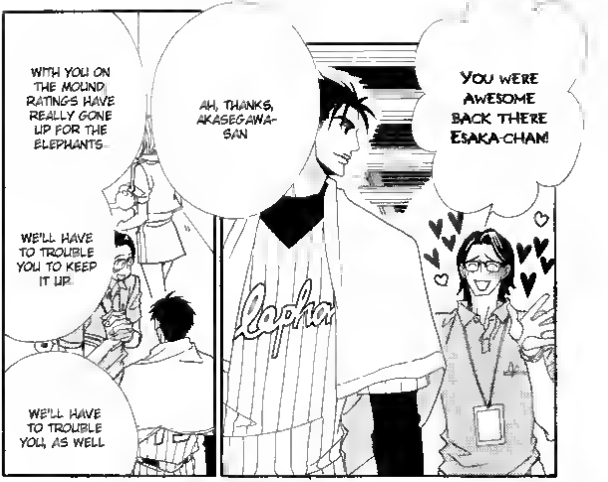
AND EVEN IF IT WAS
SO WHAT?
BUT——

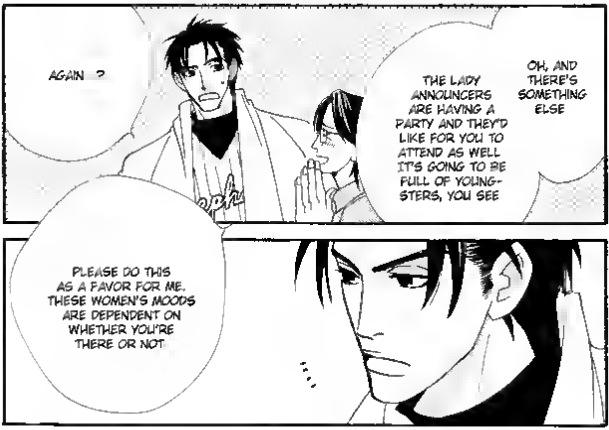
JACK


I'M BACK!
step
WELCOME HOME
MASTER, I BROUGHT HOME SOME CAKE WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
SURE, I'LL HAVE SOME
PHEW

BUT WHERE SHOULD I GO FROM HERE?

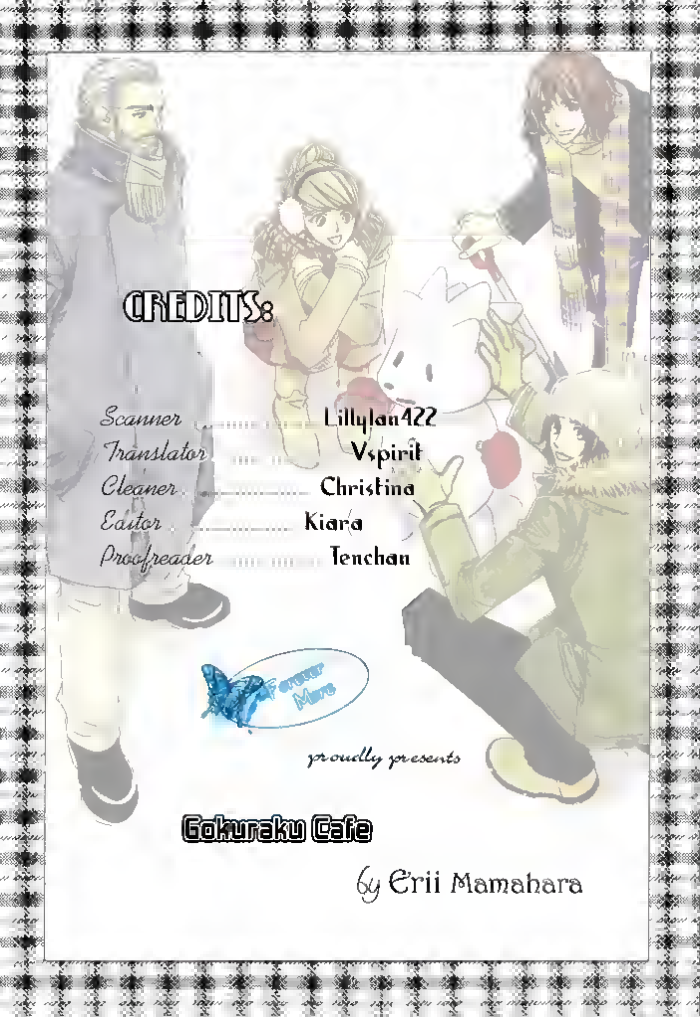
SMACK
ZUMI
STRII-
IIKE!
BATTER
OUT!
SEMPAA!
He did it! He really did it! Esaka Moriharu!
It's a perfect game!
A perfect game, I tell you!!!!
CROWD
CHEER


WITH YOU ON THE MOUND, RATINGS HAVE REALLY GONE UP FOR THE ELEPHANTS.
AH, THANKS, AKASEGAWA-SAN
YOU WERE AWESOME BACK THERE ESAKA-CHAN!
WE'LL HAVE TO TROUBLE YOU TO KEEP IT UP.
WE'LL HAVE TO TROUBLE YOU, AS WELL


AGAIN ?
THE LADY ANNOUNCERS ARE HAVING A PARTY AND THEY'D LIKE FOR YOU TO ATTEND AS WELL. IT'S GOING TO BE FULL OF YOUNGSTERS, YOU SEE
OH, AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE
PLEASE DO THIS AS A FAVOR FOR ME. THESE WOMEN'S MOODS ARE DEPENDENT ON WHETHER YOU'RE THERE OR NOT.
....

OH YEAH, THE "DANSE MACABRE" PROMO THINGIE THAT'S GOING ON NOW, IT'S AFFILIATED WITH YOUR PRODUCTION, ISN'T IT?
AH... YES, IT IS
WELL, IF YOU COULD DO ME THIS ONE FAVOR,
I'LL RETURN YOU YOURS.
SURE THING WHAT IS IT?
I WANT AN AUDIENCE WITH JACKSON HAWKE
THINK YOU CAN SET THAT UP FOR ME?

order: 7 END



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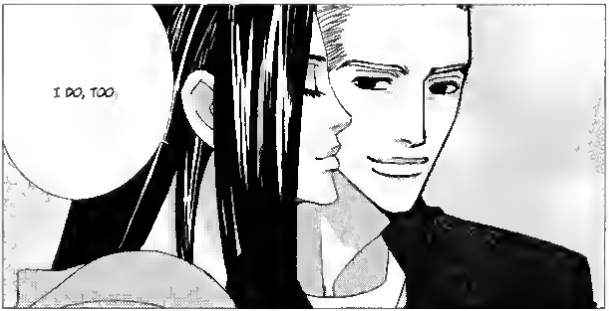
by Erii Mamahara

WELCOME HOME, RICHARD
IT'S GREAT TO BE HOME, NATSUKO
IS JACK ASLEEP YET?
YES, THAT BOY'S BEEN TRYING HARD, YOU KNOW
AW, DAMN, I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE HIM

I'M SURE HE UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT YOUR WORK IS
DON'T WORRY
I WONDER IF HE'S FORGOTTEN WHAT I LOOK LIKE


I DO, TOO.

極楽カフェ
PRESENTS
order: 8

phew
MASTER
YOU FEELING ALRIGHT? IS IT THE SUMMER HEAT?
YES I'LL BE FINE JUST FEELING A LITTLE FATIGUED IS ALL.
!
RING RING
YESH?
OH, ESAKA-SAN IT'S YOU

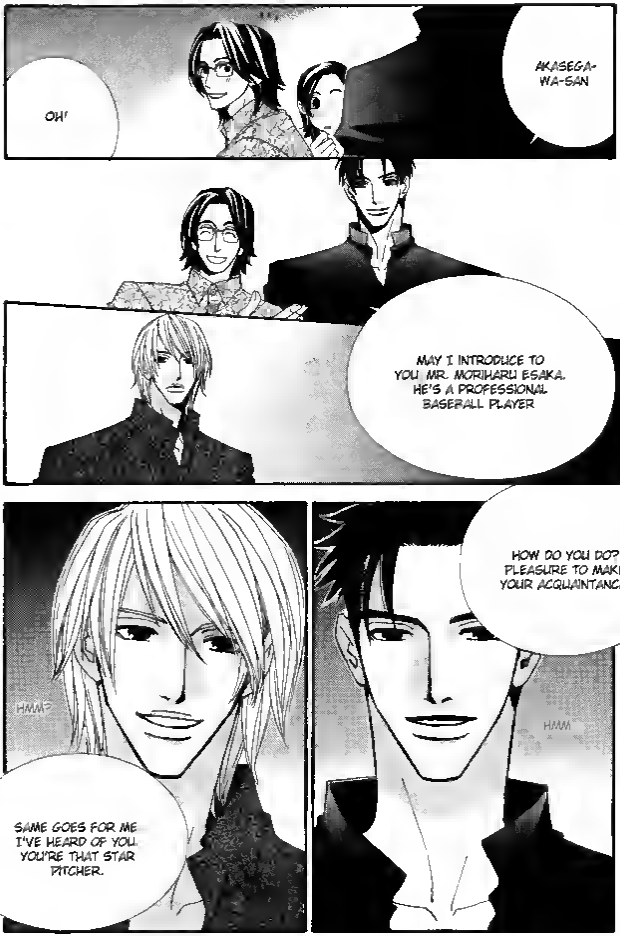
HUH? TONIGHT?
THAT'S SO SUDDEN!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO——
I'LL BE DRINKING WITH HAWKE TONIGHT
THINK YOU CAN GET MASTER TO COME AS WELL?
SLAM
WHAT'S WRONG?
...DAMMIT.
He cut me off.
ESAKA-KUN, HUH? IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE'VE LAST MET.
TONIGHT, HE SAID?
OH! WELL, Y'SEE, ESAKA-SAN'S TEAM IS HAVING SOME SORT OF PARTY TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE THEIR RECENT PERFECT VICTORY.
HE SAYS HE'D LIKE THE BOTH OF US TO COME, AS WELL

YEAH... IT STARTS AT 8
B-B-B-BUT!!
ESAKA-SAN SAID THE REASON HE'S ABLE TO MAKE A COMEBACK IS ALL THANKS TO HIM HAVING STUMBLED UPON HERE...
HOW ABOUT YOU GO ALONE?
SOMEONE HAS TO WATCH THE SHOP...
Hmmm
HMMM.
WELL, IF HE DOESN'T MIND ME BEING A BIT LATE, I GUESS I'LL COME...
...THAT'S WHY HE SAID HE REALLY WANTS YOU TO COME
REALLY?

WELL ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CLOSE UP SHOP SLIGHTLY EARLIER THAN USUAL, IS ALL.
IT'S A HARD-WON CELEBRATION, AFTER ALL
Y-YEAH
I'm feeling kinda bad

YUUTO, WHAT'S UP?
THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?
OMG!—
Sempai, you're the star tonight so what are you hiding there in the corner for?
Cmon, and drink with us
Snuffle
Snuffle
NOPE. HAWKE'S NOT HERE YET
ALRIGHT. JUST TRY TO MAKE IT HERE AS SOON AS YOU CAN

Akasegawa with his lady announcers.


AKASEGA-WA-SAN
OH!
MAY I INTRODUCE TO YOU, MR. MORIHARU ESAKA. HE'S A PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER
HOW DO YOU DO? PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
HMM
HMM?
SAME GOES FOR ME. I'VE HEARD OF YOU. YOU'RE THAT STAR PITCHER.

LOOKS LIKE THIS GUY AND I SHARE SIMILAR TASTES.
YOU'VE HEARD OF ME? THAT'S QUITE THE COMPLIMENT, COMING FROM SOMEONE AS FAMOUS AS YOU ARE
I'VE WATCHED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOUR FILMS.
IS THAT SO?
THAT YUUTO— HE NEVER EVEN BREATHED A SINGLE WORD ABOUT THIS GUY SWINGING THE SAME WAY
DEFINITELY "THE FAREWELL" WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD PIECE
Totally better not stand so close...
Hey, dear, are you getting some pretty scary vibes as well?

THAT'S SO NICE TO KNOW
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO OVER THERE TO HAVE A MORE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON BASEBALL?
THIS WAY. WE'VE RESERVED A SEAT JUST FOR YOU!

YOUR JAPANESE IS VERY FLUENT. HOW COME YOU DON'T USE IT MORE OFTEN?
WELL, PEOPLE HERE IN JAPAN SEEM TO PREFER IT WHEN I SPEAK ENGLISH TO THEM
SO I JUST PRETEND I DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT IT'D LOOK REALLY WEIRD FOR A HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITY TO SPEAK JAPANESE

YOU THINK SO, TOO?
HM?
WHEN BEING SEDUCED RATHER THAN JAPANESE...
IT SOUNDS A LOT MORE PERSUASIVE IN ENGLISH, DOESN'T IT?
?!
SO, WHICH DO YOU PREFER?
WHICHEVER'S FINE
haha haha haha
GUH, HERE HE COMES!

I WONDER HOW MANY HAVE YOU WON OVER WITH THAT HAND OF YOURS
SO HE'S COMING ON TO ME NOW? GOTTA HAND IT TO THIS GUY. HE'S GOT SOME REAL GUTS
WELL, I HAVE TO BE DISCREET I'M HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. AFTER ALL
BUT THERE IS A BOY WHO CAUGHT MY EYE
THIS KINDA REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE ACTUALLY
I SEE...
BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO INTERESTING
PEOPLE LIKE HIM COME RARE THESE DAYS. HE'S A BIT LACKING IN THE COMMON SENSE DEPARTMENT AND CAN'T SEEM TO MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS
SHOCK
WHAT?!
COME TO THINK OF IT IF THE KID WASN'T UNDER MY FATHER'S TUTELAGE I WOULD'VE ALREADY LAID HIM.
WHAT THE?! HE IS TALKING ABOUT YUUTO, AFTER ALL!!

ESAKA-SAN SORRY WE'RE LATE
U-UH... UM...
CONGRATU-LATIONS, ESAKA-KUN
Surprise
Oops!

JACK
FATHER...
MASTER...

——!
YOU PLANNED THIS!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
I'M GOING HOME.
MASTER!
WAIT, DON'T GO!
CLICK

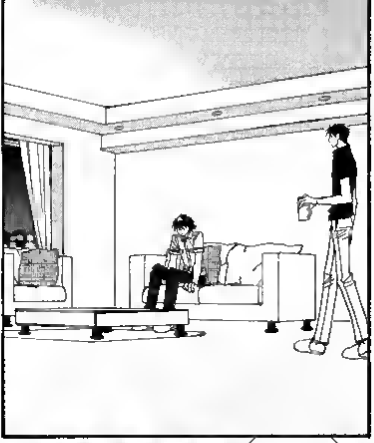
THEY'VE ALREADY GONE THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE ON OUR BEHALF
WHY NOT JUST STAY AND CHAT A LITTLE?
AREN'T THERE SOME THINGS YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
MAS—
HUH...?
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO RUN OFF? JUST LIKE THAT?
THE WAY YOU DID WHEN MOTHER FIRST DIED?
ARE YOU GOING TO USE THE SAME EXCUSE, TOO? YOU'VE GOT WORK TO DO? IS THAT IT?

WHEN ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE FAMILY ARE JUST THE TWO OF US?
SWIPE
MASTER . . PLEA——!

MASTER...
JACK
CLICK
CLICK
SO, YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF NOW WHAT KIND OF A MAN HE IS?
!!
WATCH, LEARN AND DON'T WASTE ANYMORE TIME ON THIS
rustle
JACK...
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THAT! IT MUST'VE REALLY PUT A DAMPER TO

whisper
AH, H-HAWKE-SAN!
"IF THOSE TWO TALKED, SOMETHING MIGHT COME OUT OF IT."
NO—
IT WAS ME— I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED IT—
YUUTO
LOOKS LIKE IT BACKFIRED. SORRY, IT'S MY FAULT.

WHAT...
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?



I GUESS IN THE END I WAS JUST BEING NOSEY...

TODAY WAS JUST A CASE OF BAD TIMING
I MEAN, YOU NOSED RIGHT INTO MY BUSINESS AND LOOK AT WHERE I AM NOW I MET YOU AND I'M STILL PLAYING BASEBALL... NOT BAD AT ALL, I'D SAY...
BUT IN YOUR CASE, I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING
BUT...
WELL, IT'S TOUGH BEING A PITCHER, YANNO?
IF I FOCUS TOO MUCH ON SHUTTING OUT RATHER THAN EARNING POINTS WE LOSE VICE VERSA AND WE'LL STILL LOSE
BUT IF I TRY TO FOCUS ON BOTH SINGLE-HANDEDLY, MY BODY WILL GIVE OUT
... PLAYING BASEBALL AND BEING NOSEY ARE TOO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS THOUGH

THERE ARE SIMILARITIES WHETHER IT'S SUCCESS OR FAILURE. THERE'S NO GUARANTEE OF VICTORY ON EITHER SIDE
OF COURSE YOU'D FEEL REMORSE WHEN SLAPPED WITH FAILURE. WHO WOULDN'T?
JUST DON'T OVERDO IT OR YOU'LL BREAK
BSAKA-SAN
BWAHAH
IT'S WEIRD THAT YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS WHEN ONLY A YEAR BACK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S NEAR BREAKING POINT
WELL IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO GET BACK AT ME
YUPPIE
YUPPIE
OWO-WOW!
I'd watch my mouth if I were you
Pluuu
the coffee sh gonna sh!!!!
the coffee's gonna sp!!!!

EH?
U-UM...
WHICH?
WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE SO LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT
HURRY UP AND FINISH DRINKING THAT
!
D-DOES THIS MEAN
IT'S THE SAME AS SAYING 'OK'
THAT EVEN IF I JUST CAME OVER WITHOUT THINKING TO A GUY'S PLACE ONE WHO LIKES ME THAT WAY,
TO... THAT?
Hmmm...
AH-HAH!
SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMETHING NAUGHTY...

N-NAUGHTY ——???!! WHATEVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?!
RELAX, I WON'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AN ANIMAL IN HEAT.
OTHERWISE YOU'D HATE ME FOR IT, RIGHT? AND IT'S NOT YOUR HATE THAT I WANT.
——!
I'M GOING HOME.
BUT OF COURSE, IF YUUTO-KUN WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, IT'S A WHOLE OTHER STORY.
LET GO!
I THINK THOSE TWO MIGHT STILL HAVE A SHOT.
AW, C'MON, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

YEAH
THE SON STILL HAS AFFECTIONS TOWARDS HIS FATHER. THE WAY HE SPOKE TO HIM TODAY WAS PROOF POSITIVE ENOUGH.
AS FOR MASTER, IT'S JUST HIS STRONG WILL GETTING IN THE WAY WITH OLD AGE COMES PIG-HEADEDNESS AND ALL THAT YOU KNOW THE DRILL
EH?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THOSE TWO WERE VERY CLOSE BEFORE, WEREN'T THEY?
SO AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THOSE MEMORIES TO FALL BACK ON,
WHEN THE CHANCE ARISES
THINGS WILL SOMEHOW FALL INTO PLACE

YUUTO!
——?!
step
SHUT

MA. MASTER..?
STOP WORRYING ME.
sigh
Why do I even bother wasting my worries on a freeloader like you?
Humpfh
rub rub
MASTER?
sudden
I JUST WANTED YOU TWO TO MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE WHAT I DID YESTERDAY NIGHT
I'M TRULY SORRY, MASTER

I...
I COULDN'T FACE HIM
I'VE BEEN FEELING GUILTY EVER SINCE MY WIFE PASSED ON
BEING TOO CONCERNED ABOUT WORK, I FAILED TO NOTICE HER AILING CONDITION
AND THAT'S THE STORY.
IN THE END, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH HIM I JUST TURNED TAIL AND RAN AGAIN USING WORK AS AN EXCUSE.
EVERYTIME I THINK ABOUT IT BRINGS ABOUT A NEW SORT OF PAIN AND BY THAT TIME THERE'S ALREADY A GROWING GAP BETWEEN JACK AND I
BUT THEN, WHY...?

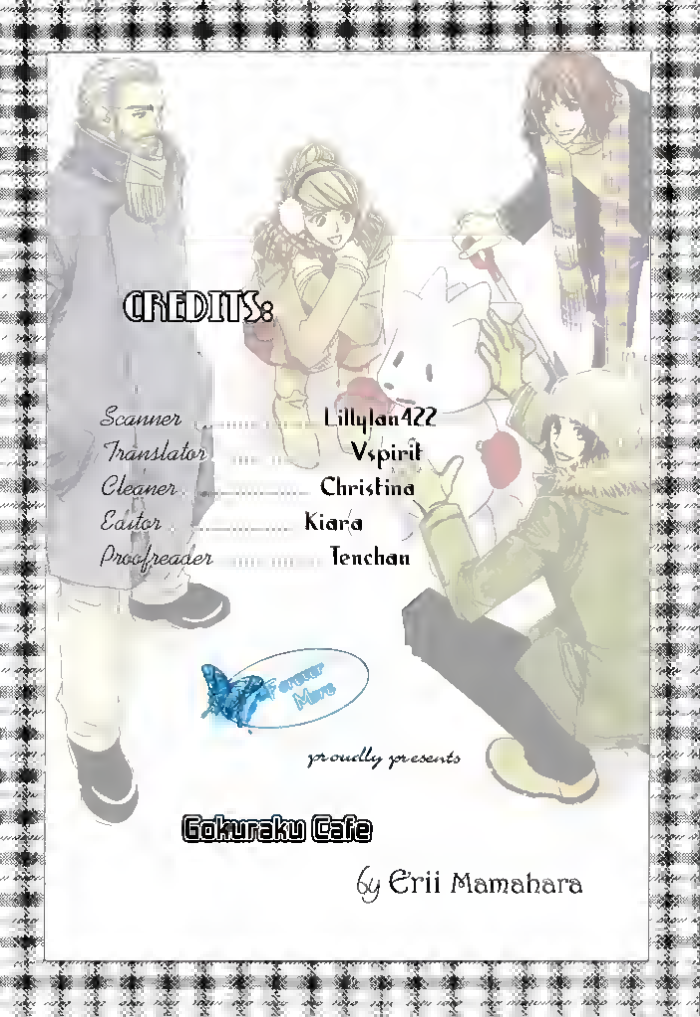
I'M JUST A PIG-HEADED OLD MAN
WHEN YOU GET TO MY AGE, IT GETS HARDER TO SAY THE THINGS YOU WANT TO SAY
MASTER...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY TO JACK WHAT YOU JUST SAID TO ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE? HE WOULD'VE LISTENED...

"IT'S JUST HIS STRONG WILL GETTING IN THE WAY WITH OLD AGE COMES PIG-HEADEDNESS AND ALL THAT. YOU KNOW THE DRILL."
NAG NAG NAG
HEY! YUUTO! WHERE WERE YOU THE NIGHT BEFORE?!
IT'S JUST AS ESAKA-SAN SAID
Master called me looking for you, you know?!

"WHEN THE CHANCE ARISES—"
"SO AS LONG AS THEY HAVE THOSE MEMORIES TO FALL BACK ON."
"THOSE TWO WERE VERY CLOSE BEFORE, WEREN'T THEY?"
!
HEY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
SORRY, SOUHEI, COULD YOU WATCH THE SHOP FOR A MINUTE?
What?!
patter
patter
patter

rustle
HERE IT IS!
rustle

THIS IS IT....!



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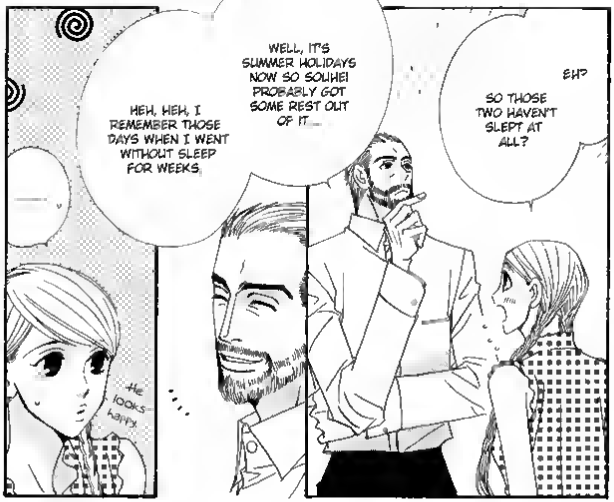
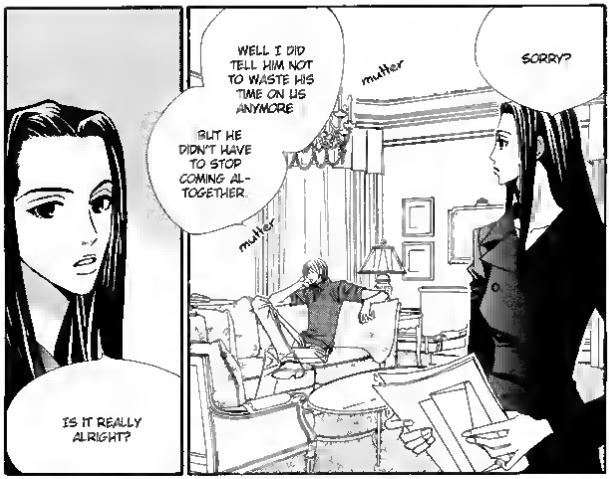
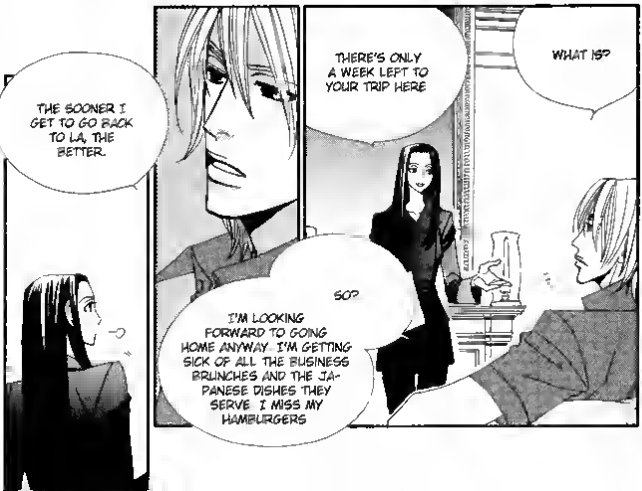
shore
MASTER,
WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE TWO?
THEY'VE BEEN AT IT EVER SINCE I WAS OUT
BUT DIDN'T REALLY TELL ME WHAT IT WAS
THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOME PET PROJECT


HEH, HEH, I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS WHEN I WENT WITHOUT SLEEP FOR WEEKS.
WELL, IT'S SUMMER HOLIDAYS NOW SO SOUHEI PROBABLY GOT SOME REST OUT OF IT...
EH?
SO THOSE TWO HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL?
HE LOOKS HAPPY.

WHY WON'T HE COME...?


SORRY?
mutter
WELL I DID TELL HIM NOT TO WASTE HIS TIME ON US ANYMORE
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP COMING ALTOGETHER.
mutter
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT?


WHAT IS?
THERE'S ONLY A WEEK LEFT TO YOUR TRIP HERE
SO?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING HOME ANYWAY. I'M GETTING SICK OF ALL THE BUSINESS BRUNCHES AND THE JAPANESE DISHES THEY SERVE. I MISS MY HAMBURGERS
THE SOONER I GET TO GO BACK TO LA, THE BETTER.

Click
WAS THAT MY PHONE RINGING JUST NOW?
DUNNO...
Where'd I put it again?
Gently Gently
OH WELL IF IT'S IMPORTANT THEY'LL CALL AGAIN ANYWAY...
BUZZZZZ
....

No not this one!
THEN WHICH ONE?!
Hm?
Souhei could you pass that over?
Huh? Which one?
step

Hmm
squish.
squish
poooour
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO WEEKS
WORKING PRETTY HARD, I MUST SAY

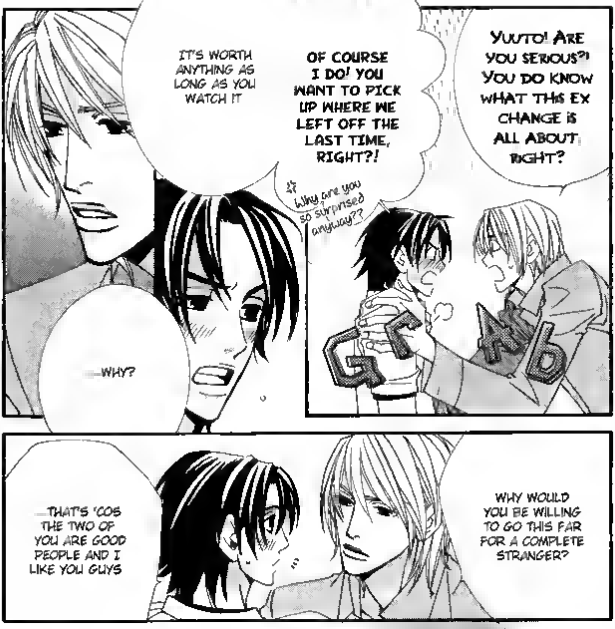
Moving on
Jackson Hawke who is returning to the US tomorrow made an appearance in today's private showing
Set for release in fall, Danse Macabre is
——!
MASTER!
YUUTO...!

OH, YOU GUYS HAVE FINISHED IT!
COULD YOU WATCH IT, LIKE NOW? PLEASE?
HERE...
...COULD YOU WATCH THIS?
OH, YES. I WAS JUST MAKING COFFEE. IT SHOULD BE READY NOW SO WHY DON'T WE ALL...
WHAT... NOW? ALL RIGHT.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

YUUTO...?
I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

I'M GLAD THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THOUGH
SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
UM... COULD YOU PLEASE WATCH THIS?
HUH? A VIDEO?
UM, I MADE IT
AND ACTUALLY, IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU COULD WATCH IT NOW
stare
AND WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE THIS TIME YUUTO?
IF THIS IS ABOUT GETTING ME AND MY FATHER BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, I ADVISE YOU TO JUST GIVE UP. YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN HOW HE IS
tap
JACK!!

I'LL DO ANYTHING! SO PLEASE, JUST WATCH IT!
PLEASE! IF YOU DON'T WATCH IT NOW, IT WON'T MEAN ANYTHING!
ANYTHING, YOU SAID?
thud
YOU ARE AWARE OF MY AFFECTIONS TOWARDS YOU, ARE YOU NOT?
FINE, I'LL DO IT.
It's not that big a deal.

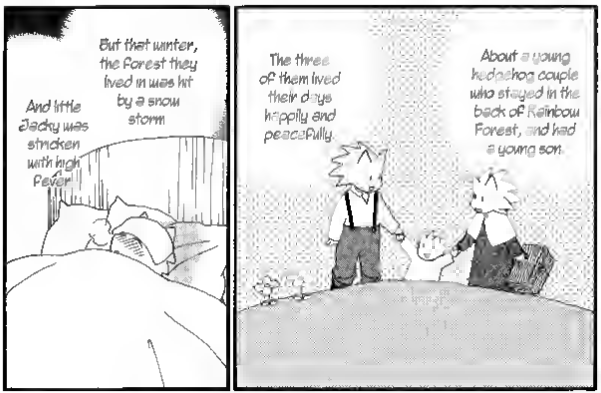

YUUTO! ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU DO KNOW WHAT THIS EXCHANGE IS ALL ABOUT RIGHT?
OF COURSE I DO! YOU WANT TO PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF THE LAST TIME, RIGHT?!
Why are you so surprised anyway??
IT'S WORTH ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU WATCH IT
WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO THIS FAR FOR A COMPLETE STRANGER?
—THAT'S 'COS THE TWO OF YOU ARE GOOD PEOPLE AND I LIKE YOU GUYS
I KNOW THIS IS CONSIDERED MEDDLING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
—AND NOBODY'S ASKED ME TO DO THIS —
— BUT I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE THE TWO OF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS

MASTER HE WAS JUST BEING STUBBORN
IN TRUTH, HE REALLY DOES LOVE YOU. HE JUST WASN'T ABLE TO SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT.
...THOSE WERE THE EXACT WORDS OF MY MOTHER.
SHE SIDED WITH HIM UNTIL THE VERY END
"JACK, PLEASE DON'T BLAME YOUR FATHER FOR THIS ALRIGHT?"
I WANTED TO HATE HIM ON HER BEHALF.
BUT THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE I SHOULDN'T...

snore
YUUTO?
——?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
?????
click
WHIRRR

silence
This house don't tell me
...JACKY?
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD TO RUSH
How many days did it take them to do this I wonder?
THIS IS

WAIT A MINUTE... I KNOW THIS STORY
THIS WAS... THE EPISODE RIGHT BEFORE THE STORY BEGINS
WITH JACKY STAYING ALONE...


About a young hedgehog couple who stayed in the back of Rainbow Forest, and had a young son.
The three of them lived their days happily and peacefully.
But that winter, the forest they lived in was hit by a snow storm.
And little Jacky was stricken with high fever.

a few days after, the mother, worried about both father and son, ventured out on her own into the storm
He never returned.
So the father decided to brave the storm to bring back some herbs.
The storm continued for a whole week without signs of stopping.
Jacky woke up to find himself all alone
On the dawn the storm finally receded,
WHAT A SAD, SAD, TALE
I REMEMBER NOW.

"WAAAAAAA"
"JACK, IT'S JUST A STORY PAPA AND MAMA WON'T GO ANY-WHERE."
"PROMISE?"
"PAPA, MAMA!
DON'T GOOO I DON'T WANNA BE ALOONE!!"
"DEAR, I'M AFRAID JACK SAW YOUR SCRIPT."
"JACK, ALWAYS REMEMBER"
WHAT A LITTLE CRY-BABY I WAS

"WE'LL STILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU IN YOUR HEART."
"THAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP INTO A BIG BOY AND HAVE TO PART WITH US."
MMM
EH? DID I FALL ASLEEP?
YUUTO

WHY'D YOU SHOW ME THAT?
Well...
I WANTED YOU TO REMEMBER THE DAYS BACK WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
DID YOU SEE HOW HAPPY JACKY'S PARENTS WERE WHEN HE WAS BORN?
HOW PRECIOUS HE WAS TO THEM?
I THINK...
THAT'S EXACTLY HOW YOUR PARENTS MUST'VE FELT.
YUUTO...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
BANG
YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO MY STUDENT?!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY THING TO HIM!! (YET)
Poke
"YET"???!
?!
F_FAT-HER?!
MASTER..!

YUUTO! YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH ME!
BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU STAY HERE
HUH? AH
HEY!! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? FIRST YOU BARGE IN,
THEN YOU ACCUSE ME OF BEING SOME KIND OF BEAST?!
I wasn't accusing you! You ARE one!
OH NO- OOO!
DON'T TELL ME THAT VIDEO I MADE WASN'T ANY HELP AT ALL???
MASTER, PLEASE WAIT!
I MEAN, YOU'RE ALREADY HERE...
...AND JACK'S GOING BACK TOMORROW

I REMEMBERED THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE STILL A CRYBABY

FATHER...
WATCHING YUUTO'S VIDEO, IT'S MADE ME FINALLY REALIZE
THAT LIFE IS TOO SHORT AND PRECIOUS TO BE SPENT ANGSTING OVER LITTLE THINGS
EH?
What are they saying?

I'M SORRY
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY
MASTER!
SLOW MOVE WALK
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT I AM
AND ALSO THE FACT THAT I STILL LOVE YOU
FATHER!
I REMEMBERED AS WELL

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, YUUTO.
I'LL COME BACK FOR SURE
JACK...?
AND THIS TIME, I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU AT THE SHOP.
bump
DON'T ASK ME
AH!
EH?
BUT, MASTER—!
ACK!
SO THINGS ARE OK NOW, RIGHT? MASTER?

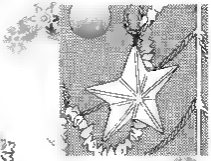
THANK YOU.

BUT!
That home-made video of yours was terrible!
MASTER!!!
♡♡♡♡

ROOOOOAR
It's back to business as usual at the shop
Morning!
MOR-NIN!
Hawke-san went back the following day
Is that a bun in?

Marcel! early as usual, see
You too.
Sorry for the wait.
Only one day has passed since since yesterday's events.
But I know

.. that Jacky is now no longer alone.



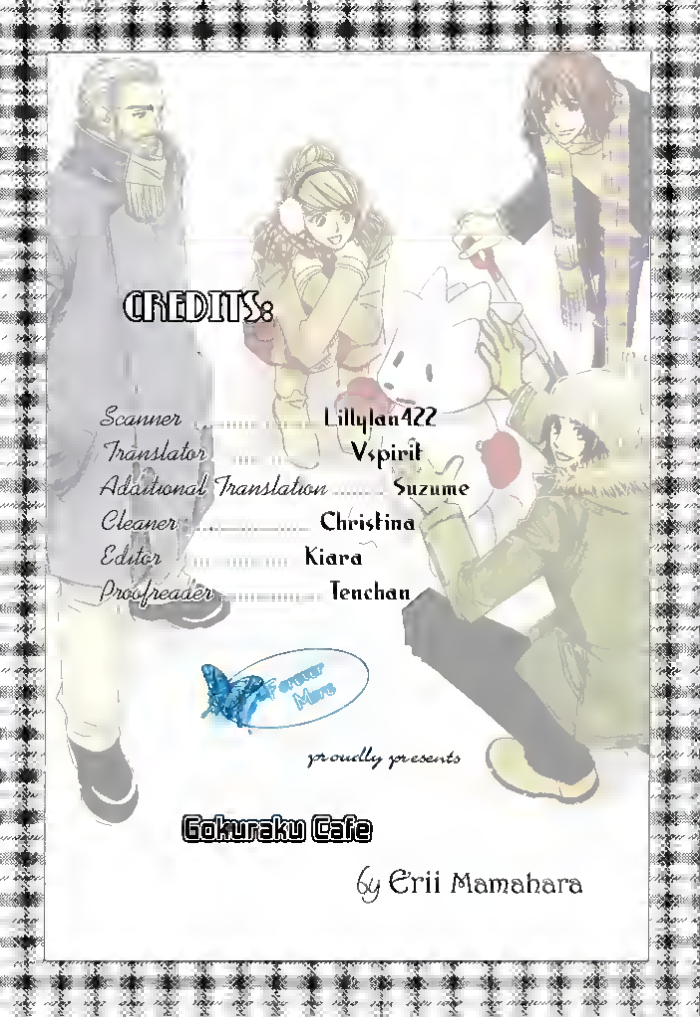
Merry
X'mas!
♡

WOW, SOUHEI-KUN, IS THAT A CHRISTMAS CAKE I SEE?
YEP!
OH, ESAKA-SAN YOU'RE HERE AS WELL.
HEY THERE SOUHEI!
Hey! No eating first!
OOOH, WHAT'S THIS???
THINGS SURE HAVE GOTTEN A LOT LIVE-LIER HERE HAVEN'T THEY?
YEAH, I WOULDN'T HAVE DARED IMAGINE THIS TWO YEARS BACK
Blah
What'd you call me?!
Stin-gy-head!
There there
Blah

BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW
...IT'S REALLY NOT SO BAD AT ALL.
Yuuto-kun, shield me from the Big Bad Souse.
Ah! Hey!
WHAT DO YOU CALL ME?!
MASTER, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME MEET JACK AT THE AIRPORT AS WELL?
sigh
IT'S YOU HE CAME HERE TO SCOUT SO HE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
MAN... YOU TWO HAVE REALLY GOT TO STOP USING OTHER PEOPLE AS AN EXCUSE TO SEE EACH OTHER.
You guys just love making life hard for everyone don't you??

What are you guys talking about?
What did you mean by that? I have so much talent I'm practically overflowing with it!
Fully reserved today.
I must wonder what possessed him to think that you have any talent at all?
OPEN
AH-
WELCOME TO RAINBOW VALLEY CAFE!

order: 9 END



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Sweet Manga

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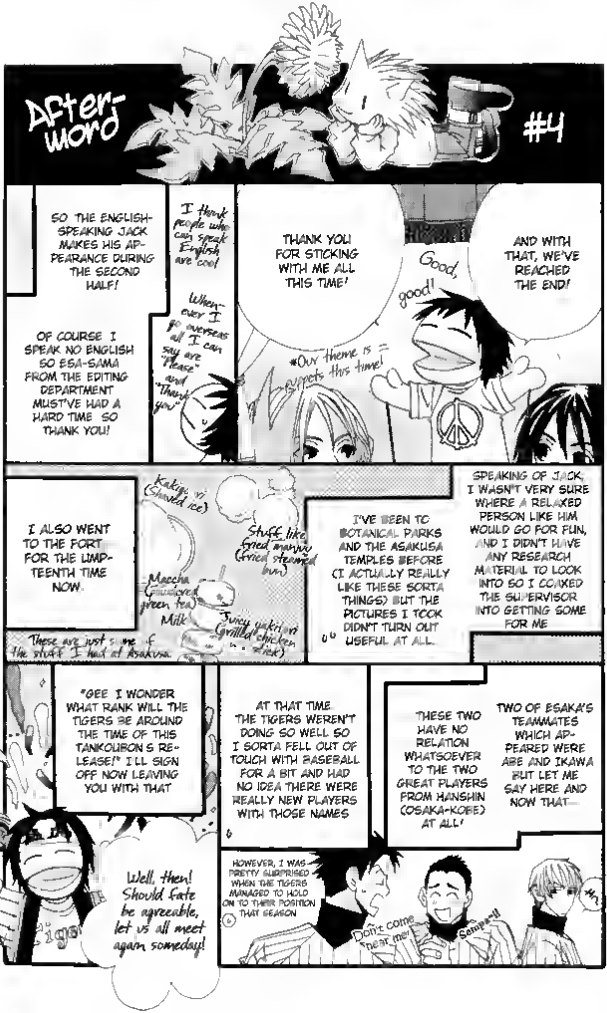
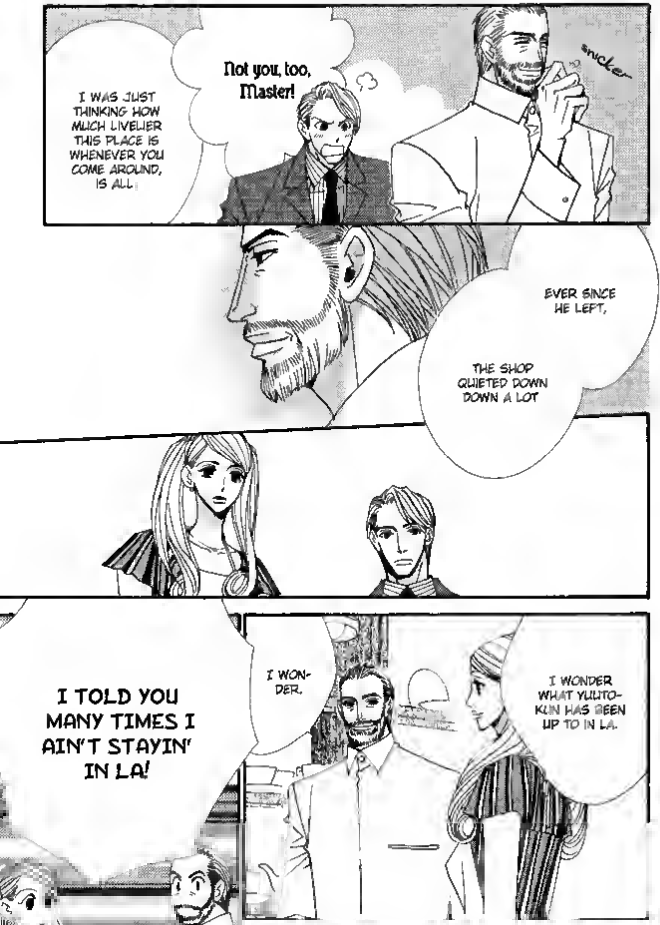

After-word
#4
SO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING JACK MAKES HIS APPEARANCE DURING THE SECOND HALF!
OF COURSE I SPEAK NO ENGLISH SO ESA-SAMA FROM THE EDITING DEPARTMENT MUSTVE HAD A HARD TIME SO THANK YOU!
I think people who can speak English are cool
Whenever I go overseas all I can say are "Please" and "Thank you"
THANK YOU! FOR STICKING WITH ME ALL THIS TIME!
«Our theme is — Regrets this time!
Good, good!
AND WITH THAT, WE'VE REACHED THE END!
I ALSO WENT TO THE FORT FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME NOW.
Kakigori (Shaved ice)
Stuff like Grilled mochiyaki (Grilled rice cake bun)
Maccha (Powdered green tea)
Milk
Juicy yakitori (grilled chicken on a stick)
These are just some of the stuff I had at Asakusa.
I'VE BEEN TO BOTANICAL PARKS AND THE ASAKUSA TEMPLES BEFORE (I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKE THESE SORTA THINGS) BUT THE PICTURES I TOOK DIDN'T TURN OUT USEFUL AT ALL.
SPEAKING OF JACK, I WASN'T VERY SURE WHERE A RELAXED PERSON LIKE HIM WOULD GO FOR FUN, AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RESEARCH MATERIAL TO LOOK INTO SO I COAXED THE SUPERVISOR INTO GETTING SOME FOR ME
"GEE I WONDER WHAT RANK WILL THE TIGERS BE AROUND THE TIME OF THIS TANKOUBON'S RELEASE?" I'LL SIGN OFF NOW LEAVING YOU WITH THAT
Well, then! Should fate be agreeable, let us all meet again someday!
AT THAT TIME THE TIGERS WEREN'T DOING SO WELL SO I SORTA FELL OUT OF TOUCH WITH BASEBALL FOR A BIT AND HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE REALLY NEW PLAYERS WITH THOSE NAMES
THESE TWO HAVE NO RELATION WHATSOEVER TO THE TWO GREAT PLAYERS FROM HANSHIN (OSAKA-KOBE) AT ALL!
TWO OF ESAKA'S TEAMMATES WHICH APPEARED WERE ABE AND IKAWA BUT LET ME SAY HERE AND NOW THAT—
HOWEVER, I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED WHEN THE TIGERS MANAGED TO HOLD ON TO THEIR POSITION THAT SEASON
Don't come near me!
Same—!!
Hm

Hello!
WELCOME TO RAINBOW VALLEY——
AH, SOUHEI-KUN IT'S JUST YOU
Let's meet again in Rainbow Forest
3 years later
'JUST ME?' WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WELL, YOU SEEM TO MANAGE TO COME EVERYDAY WITHOUT FAIL.
LECTURERS THESE DAYS MUST NOT BE VERY BUSY PEOPLE
I'M JUST NOT THE TYPE TO WORK AFTER OFFICE HOURS!

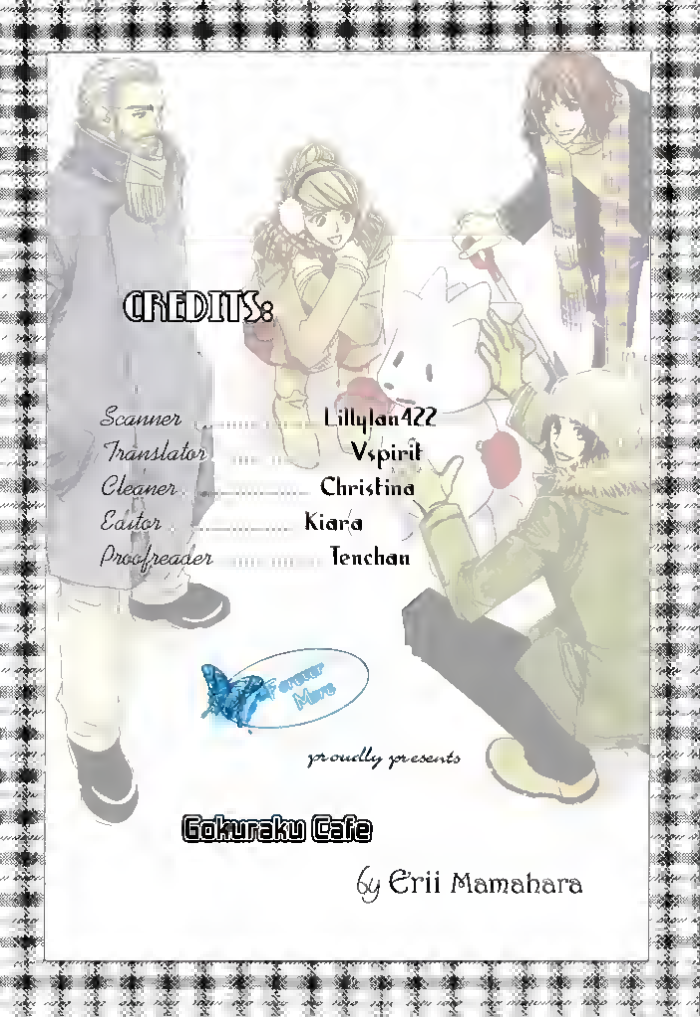

I WAS JUST THINKING HOW MUCH LIVELIER THIS PLACE IS WHENEVER YOU COME AROUND, IS ALL.
Not you, too, Master!
snicker
EVER SINCE HE LEFT,
THE SHOP QUIETED DOWN DOWN A LOT
I WONDER WHAT YULITO-KUN HAS BEEN UP TO IN LA.
I WON-DER.
I TOLD YOU MANY TIMES I AIN'T STAYIN' IN LA!

THE PRODUCTION HOUSE YOU HAVE HERE IS MORE THAN GOOD ENOUGH!
AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT IF YOU DON'T BREATHE THE RIGHT AIR, YOU'RE GONNA RUN INTO PROBLEMS!
I'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN I GET TO IT!
I THOUGHT YOU'LL ONLY BE BACK TOMORROW?
And what's he doing here with you?
THIS GUY HERE WON'T STOP BUGGING ME SO I THOUGHT I'D COME BACK EARLY TO ESCAPE HIM.
But as you can see he ended up following me all the way here instead.
Yuuto!!
Dodgers
I'M HOME!!
I've missed you! It's been a long time!
WHAT THE——? SOUHEI! YOU HERE AGAIN? DON'T YOU LECTURERS HAVE WORK TO DO OR SOMETHING?
And it's only been two weeks since I last saw you!
All day and all night I was kept worried.. yanno!
Gonna all the way there to visit that Esaka after he's been transferred.
GFAb

HOW'S SAKA-KUN?
HE WAS GREAT! HE TOTALLY HAD THE AIR OF A MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYER!
OH, I SAW HIM ON TV!
Man he was soooo cool!
SEEING HIM MAKES ME WANT TO WORK HARDER MYSELF
AND THAT'S WHY, YUUTO
YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME TO MY PRODUCTION HOUSE IN LA
AND I SAID I AIN'T GOING
PROBLEM? FOR ME?
AND IF I WENT, IT'D BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU, TOO
JACK, THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT WHICH I HAVEN'T LEARNED FROM MASTER
sniff
YOU'D LOSE YOUR EXCUSE TO COME HERE

THAT'S TOO BAD. AND HERE I MADE SOME COFFEE FOR YOU TOO
psss
I'M GOING BACK!
tum
Ahem!
SINCE I'M ALREADY HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL STAY A BIT
Moriharu! Move your ass or I'll move it for you!
WONDER WHEN YUUITO'LL COME SEE ME AGAIN

Fin♥



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proudly presents

Gokuraku Cafe

by Erii Mamahara